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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Indicted

Ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and five others were indicted Thursday.

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Freed Hostage

A Filipino Red Cross worker is freed by the Abu Sayyaf after 10 weeks of captivity in a jungle.

MAHARLIKA...Page 13



Idol Moment

Megan Joy says she was just being goofy when she flapped her way across the "American Idol" stage.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Prostitution sting nets six female suspects. **PAGE 2**
CNMI submits open skies petition to the feds. **PAGE 3**

PUC holds wastewater rate hike

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Public Utilities Commission has decided to hold off on raising wastewater rates at this time, saying it is not reasonable or

fair for residents to cover the costs of commercial enterprises not paying for service.

Both the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Georgetown Consulting Group recommended that PUC raise the wastewater rates across the board

by 173.4 percent to help the division become financially independent.

The division incurred a deficit of \$3.86 million during the last fiscal year.

At a public hearing last week, Georgetown consultant Larry Gawlik said he believes millions of dollars are being lost from a loophole that allows

non-metered customers to go without paying for service.

This finding was why PUC decided to hold off on a rate increase.

"[PUC] is not persuaded that this proposed increase in wastewater rates would be either just and reasonable or fair when

See PUC on Page 4

US: Federalization delay supports lawsuit dismissal

RELATED NEWS

DHS: No timeline for 2 other federalization rules. **PAGE 4**

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The 180-day delay in the implementation of the federalization law is further justification why the CNMI's motion to suspend the labor provisions in the law should be dismissed, according to lawyers for the federal government.

In a new status report filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the U.S. government law-

See US on Page 4

'Rydlime purchases an abuse of public funds'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An inventory specialist at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday testified that he wrote an anonymous letter to the Office of Public Auditor last year because he felt that the purchase of thousands of gallons of a chemical called Rydlime was an abuse of public funds.

During direct examination by assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, Joseph Sablan Crisostomo said he had wondered why CUC was purchasing more Rydlime when there were ample stocks of the chemical at the power plant.

Crisostomo said there was an austerity

See RYDLYME on Page 4



KARATE KIDS

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, third from right, presents a certificate of appreciation to the visiting members of the Tokyo-based Nihon Seishounen Ikusai Club on Thursday night at the Garapan Street Market after the adult and young members performed martial arts demonstration that included kata and breaking of bricks and baseball bats using their bare hands. Inset, young members of the club awe the crowd with their martial arts demonstration.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



'Tinian residents waiting too long for 400 homestead lots'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sen. Jude U. Hofshneider said Tinian residents have waited far too long for at least 400 homestead lots, even as the Department of Public Lands earlier said these lots will be distributed by early February.



Hofshneider

Hofschneider, chairman of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs, said Public Lands Secretary John S. Del Rosario indicated in a Jan. 9 letter that the "issuance of homestead lots will take place during the first half of next month," which would have

meant that the distribution of would have been completed by early February.

"To my knowledge, however, not a single homestead lot has been awarded on Tinian to this date," Hofschneider told Del Rosario in an April 1 letter.

Del Rosario, when asked for comment on Hofschneider's letter, said the homestead program is "an executive function."

See TINIAN on Page 4

Local

Ex-governor Lang to run for a House seat

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Former governor Froilan "Lang" Tenorio yesterday confirmed reports that he is running for a Precinct 1 seat in the House of Representatives in this November's elections.

He is expected to run as an independent candidate. He said being an independent lawmaker will help him work with officials from other political parties.

There are six seats up for grabs in Precinct 1.

Tenorio, who was the island's highest official from 1994 to 1998, also sought other gov-

ernment posts in previous elections. These included CNMI Representative to Washington Office and senator.

In 2005, he was endorsed as the Democratic Party gubernatorial standard-bearer but came in last in a four-way race that was won by Covenant Party standard bearer Benigno R. Fitial.

A former Republican, Tenorio said his leaving the party was a personal decision.

Although he admitted being a friend of the incumbent governor, Tenorio claims he does not support a number of Fitial's decisions.



Tenorio

Asked for his motive in running for a House seat, he said: "There's no reason for me to run in the House seat if the incumbent congressmen in precinct 1 are doing their responsibility. I

feel I can do something to address the present concerns of our people."

Tenorio, known for being outspoken, said he hates to see the re-election of the same old faces.

"I believe we need six new faces in Precinct 1..." he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that this will be his first attempt to run for a seat in the Legislature.

Tenorio said people have tested the capabilities of their current representatives and are unsatisfied with the performance

of the incumbents. "We already know what the incumbents can and cannot do...for our people," he said.

Tenorio described the state of the economy and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. as the top concerns he will tackle if elected.

Prostitution sting in Garapan nets 6 female suspects

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A joint operation conducted by local and federal law enforcement agencies resulted in the Thursday arrest of six women allegedly involved in prostitution in western Garapan.

The six suspects—Aiqin He, Bilin Zhang Cabrera, Nirong Zhang, Aiping Cao, Qingun Li, and Yuan Zhen Zhang Ludwick—were brought to the Superior Court yesterday

afternoon for a bail hearing.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a \$200 cash bail plus \$800 unsecured bond for the temporary release of each defendant. Govendo set the preliminary hearing for April 8 at 9am and the arraignment for April 13 at 9am.

Urbano Babauta, an investigator at the Office of the Attorney General's Investigative Unit, stated in his report that the sting operation was conducted in the evening of March 27, 2009.

Babauta said in the operation was assisted by the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the U.S. Navy Reserve Guam, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Four agents from the federal agencies, who acted as undercover agents, entered the Yankey's Bar located on Plumeria Street in western Garapan.

The six defendants were allegedly among the women who approached the agents in the bar and offered sex for a fee.

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Sign-ups begin for Islandwide Cleanup

The first 50 people have signed up for the Islandwide Cleanup slated to take place on April 17, 2009. The Saipan Mayor's Office and the Office of Personnel Management were the first organizations to turn in their sign up sheets.

The Office of Personnel Management has adopted the Garapan Fishing Base and has pledged to recruit 20 volunteers to help beautify the area. Likewise, the Saipan Mayor's Office has adopted Beach Road from Afetnas

CONTACT INFO

To participate in the cleanup, contact:

■ Joe Kaipat, 664-8500
■ Angelo Villagomez, 285-6462
or angelovillagomez@gmail.com

to Koblerville and has pledged 30 staff for roadside trash collection.

"Our first two signups adopted the roads and areas near their offices. This is what we envisioned when we started planning this cleanup," said co-organizer Joe Kaipat of Division of Environmental Quality. "We hope to get at least 5,000 volunteers this year."

According to the organizers, the goal of this year's islandwide cleanup is to recruit at least 5,000 volunteers to spend a few hours beautifying the islands, whether it is by picking up litter on a road or beach, painting over graffiti, planting a few trees, or participating in some other activity.

The cleanup organizers are encouraging participants to adopt a spot near their homes, offices, or schools, although some organizations will adopt beaches and/or tourist sites.

The organizers are encouraging the community to get involved as much as possible.

Event co-organizer Angelo Villagomez said, "It would be great if we could get a few families to the roads near their homes. We want people to take ownership and responsibility for the upkeep of their areas of the island."

The Marianas Visitors Authority is providing funds for garbage bags, rubber gloves, and some paint and the Division of Environmental Quality has pledged to assist with transferring solid waste collected to the transfer station in Lower Base. Supplies, if needed, will be available for pickup at the Division of Environmental Quality.

Division of Environmental Quality, Rotary Club of Saipan, Marianas Visitors Authority, and Marianas Tourism Education Council are the co-organizers the islandwide cleanup.

For more information on the how to participate in the cleanup, contact Joe Kaipat at 664-8500 or Angelo Villagomez at 285-6462 or via e-mail at angelovillagomez@gmail.com. (PR)

CNMI submits open skies petition to the feds

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI submitted an open skies petition to the U.S. Department of Transportation, essentially asking the federal government to lift restrictions that prevent foreign carriers from flying to and from the Commonwealth.

The CNMI is asking the federal department to grant the CNMI waivers to expand its air service to include Australia, China and Japan carriers.

The petition asks the Department to use the same consideration it has with Guam's petition, which has sought the inclusion of Australia, China and Japan.

However, acting Attorney

General Gregory Baka wrote in the petition, some factors unique to the Commonwealth should also be taken into account.

Compared to Guam, the CNMI faces more challenging economic circumstances due to the loss of the garment industry; lack of a U.S. military presence; lower level air service; a greater loss of tourism revenues; and infrastructure shortfalls.

Baka also pointed out the Covenant agreement between the CNMI and the United States requires the U.S. to encourage foreign countries to treat the Commonwealth as a developing country, with respect to exports and trade. Also, the Covenant mandates the federal government assist the CNMI in achieving a higher standard of living for its people and give "sympathetic consideration" to

the views of the CNMI on international matters affecting the Northern Mariana Islands.

"Thus, the Covenant constitutes positive law that the department must apply in weighing more generalized arguments from U.S. carriers decrying amorphous negotiating harm suffered through grants of unilateral extrabilateral rights for carriers from the People's Republic of China and Japan, neither of which is a current source of foreign-flag scheduled air passenger or cargo service to the CNMI," the petition stated.

Despite limited resources, Baka was able to prepare the petition, saving the CNMI government thousands of dollars in outside legal fees, something Gov. Benigno Fitial is pleased with, said Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, in a message to the media. In the past, outside counsel was hired to perform the work.



Baka



DELIVERING THE NEWS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Richard Barth, and Madeleine Z. Bordallo, chairwoman of the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife met Wednesday in Bordallo's office on Capitol Hill. Barth delivered the notification from Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano that she had granted a 180-day delay in the commencement of federal immigration control in the Northern Marianas. Barth said the Department had listened to many people on the issue of the delay and that the decision was in many ways collaborative. "It's the right thing to do for you... It's the right thing to do for us," Barth told the two members of Congress.

Stanley wants validity of WASC letter checked

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres Jr. wants the House of Representatives' Education Committee to look into the authenticity of a letter purportedly from WASC president Dr. Barbara Beno, which he described as "damaging" to the Northern Marianas College's accreditation standing.

The lawmaker believes the letter, allegedly sent by Beno to Board of Regents chair Charles V. Cepeda last Feb. 26, was fabricated to discredit the NMC board.

In the letter, Beno lectured the board and warned against the Legislature's intervention in the operations and management of the college.

"The chairman's comment regarding the validity of a damaging letter supposedly sent by WASC's Dr. Beno

needs a closer look. His story about electronic technicalities is at the very least suspicious,"

Torres told the education panel in a letter dated March 31.

Cepeda had earlier said that the unsigned copy of Dr. Beno's letter was a result of "electronic trouble" and clarified that her signature was affixed to the second letter re-sent to his office.

"I am very disturbed that a professional employee from a credible organization would supposedly send an unsigned letter in Microsoft Word format if it's meant to be distributed to the regents and the chair of the House Education Committee. Professionals working for a credible organization [like WASC] would normally sign the letter, scan it and send it in PDF format

so that their private metadata can't be seen," Torres said.

He also added that "no one has seen a signed version except for possibly Cepeda, who evidently is not willing to share it."

It will be recalled that House Education chair Rep. Ralph Torres was furnished a copy of Dr. Beno's unsigned letter.



Torres

Regents misbehavior, meddling, ineffective function

In the three-page letter, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, the WASC official said the correspondence was a response to Cepeda's earlier message asking for guidance on the college's accreditation requirements.

The Legislature's participation and "meddling" in the col-

lege's operation was among the topics addressed in the letter.

The WASC president said regents should not be introducing or attempting to introduce legislative pressure into the operations of NMC.

"If governing board members discuss the evaluation of the president outside of the formal evaluation procedures, if they participate in such harmful activity as distributing anonymous complaints or asking the president to be responsive to such anonymous complaints, they are failing to provide adequate delegation of responsibility and authority to the president and they are failing to provide fair evaluation and guidance to the president," the letter adds.

Beno also allegedly expressed concern that, despite ample training, the governing board of NMC or some of its members cannot seem to learn

how to function effectively.

Rep. Stanley Torres said that Beno certainly "has no business accusing the board members or telling the Legislature what to do."

"Did she in fact sign the letter?" he asked.

Inquiries to Beno left unanswered

Saipan Tribune's inquiries to the office of Dr. Beno remain unanswered at press time.

Torres said his formal request, along with the letter to the education panel chairman, was provided to Beno's office.

"A formal request to confirm her authorship has gone unanswered for weeks," the lawmaker said.

He revealed that during a meeting with Rep. Ralph Torres, he was informed by the chairman that a formal inquiry from the committee will also be sent to the WASC official.

Rep. Ralph Torres did not return repeated calls by *Saipan Tribune*.

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DHS: No timeline for 2 other federalization rules

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Department of Homeland Security said no timeline has been announced for the publication of the two other regulations involving the federalization of CNMI immigration.

Only the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program regulations have been released, but not the rules on the transi-

tional worker program and the CNMI investor program.

Marie Therese Sebrechts, regional media manager of DHS's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, said proposed regulations to implement the two CNMI-specific nonimmigrant classifications under the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (CNRA) of 2008 are currently under development by DHS.

"Once the proposed regulations are published, there will be a public comment period," she said.

On March 31, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced the June 1 start date to the federalization law will be delayed by 180 days until Nov. 28, 2009.

Jeff Schorr, field representatives of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, said his statement about the release of

the two sets of regulations in "another month or two" was only a "guess," and that his office does not have anything to do with the release of the regulations.

Schorr was asked about the regulations by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during their general membership meeting on Wednesday.

Besides the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Tinian Chamber of Commerce, the Rota Casino Gaming Commission and the United Workers Movement NMI welcomed the 180-day delay in the start of transition to federal immigration, but want DHS to soon publish the CNMI-only transitional worker and investor regulations.

They said without the publication of these two regulations, it is hard for investors to make business plans in light of federalization.

As of the beginning of the transition

program on Nov. 28, 2009, DHS and its component agencies (in particular, the USCIS, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will be responsible for:

- Operation of ports of entry in the CNMI for immigration inspection of arriving aliens.

- Establishment of departure control for certain flights leaving the CNMI.

- Immigration detention and removal of aliens in the CNMI.

- Enforcement of federal laws governing the unlawful employment of aliens, including the requirement for CNMI employers to complete the Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification.

- Acceptance and adjudication of petitions and applications for immigration status and benefits.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Autism Society Open House today

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be hosting an Open House today, April 4, 2009, at the FS360 Training Center in the NMPASI office on Middle Road. Scheduled from 9:30am to 2:30pm, parents and members will be available to provide information about autism and the resources available in the CNMI, as well as the services available at the Training Center. Light refreshments are available. For more information, call John at 234-8803/4, Larrisa at 322-3761, NMPASI at 235-7274 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. (PR)

NMC alumni get-together today

The NMC Alumni Association is inviting all NMC alumni to the first ever

"NMC Alumni Reunion Barbecue Bash" on Managaha today, April 4, 2009. There will be food, fun, drinks, and games. Interested alumni can log on to www.nmcnet.edu and register on the alumni page. Alumni membership cards are now available and include discounts to businesses and access to NMC facilities. Come and hang out with former classmates from NMC. Interested alumni can also email vice president Chris Cabrera at mistercabrer@yahoo.com or Laura Williams at laurawilliams7@gmail.com for more info. (PR)

NMC 2009 graduation candidates meeting today

Spring 2009 graduation candidates of the Northern Marianas College are invited to attend the Graduation Committee meeting scheduled for today,

April 4, 2009, at the Student Support Services office located in Building J on the NMC campus at 2pm. The meeting will feature updates on graduation, as well as a discussion on the commencement theme, choices for the keynote speaker, plans for the commencement banquet and other aspects of the graduation. For more information, please contact Jack Kiyoshi, Jr. at 234-5498 ext. 1021, or jackk@nmcnet.edu. All students preparing to graduate in May 2009 are urged to attend this meeting. (NMC)

KagES April events

April 8 PTA meeting at 6:30pm in the school cafeteria

April 9-13 Students/Teachers Easter Break

April 14 Students/Teachers return to classes

RYDLYME

From Page 1

regime that year and the hours of employees were cut, yet CUC purchased more Rydlyme despite having an excess of the product.

On O'Malley's question whether he formed an opinion about the purchase, the government witness replied: "My opinion was we still have the product in the power plant and we're ordering more of the product."

Crisostomo said he encountered Rydlyme in November 2007 when James Santos came to his office at the CUC warehouse to inform him that a delivery of Rydlyme was made.

James Santos owns ISLA Sales Micronesia, which supplied thousands of gallons of Rydlyme to CUC. His wife, Joaquina V. Santos, owns Blue Pacific that received \$120,000 from CUC in

September 2007 for the purchase of 3,000 gallons of Rydlyme. The two are co-defendants of Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez in the case.

Crisostomo identified three pictures taken of the power plant warehouse as the same containers of Rydlyme he saw in the power plant area.

He said it was Flor Valencia, working at the warehouse, who handed him some papers that James Santos brought for the delivery of Rydlyme.

Victorino Torres, counsel for James Santos, showed Crisostomo a letter of James Santos dated Feb. 6, 1998, addressed to Villagomez about ISLA Sales' quotation for 375 gallons of Rydlyme at \$35 per gallon for a total of \$13,125.

Crisostomo agreed with Torres that at no time did James Santos request for payment before delivery of Rydlyme.

He agreed that Flor Valencia took the documents—an invoice from Blue

Pacific to CUC. Crisostomo said James Santos came to the warehouse and provided the documents to Valencia, who in turn gave the documents to him.

Crisostomo said that among the documents was Blue Pacific's invoice from Rydlyme manufacturer, Apex Engineering, for a cost of over \$30,000.

The witness said James Santos provided a second invoice from Blue Pacific regarding how much he is charging CUC.

Torres also presented a Customs declaration that assessed Blue Pacific \$1,352 in total taxes for the shipment of Rydlyme.

Crisostomo agreed with Torres that when James Santos provided the invoices it was a normal practice.

"Did CUC accept Rydlyme upon delivery? Yes or no?" asked Torres. Crisostomo answered, "Yes."

The witness agreed with Ramon Quichocho, counsel for Joaquina San-

tos, that he (Crisostomo) did not know in 2007 that Blue Pacific and CUC had a contract for the purchase of Rydlyme.

"Now you know that a contract exists between CUC and Blue Pacific?" Quichocho asked. "Yes," Crisostomo said.

Crisostomo told the prosecution that to his knowledge there was no request for Rydlyme for Rota and Tinian.

When asked about his reaction to the difference in the supplier's price and Pacific Blue's invoice, Crisostomo said, "It shocked me."

Crisostomo said the Apex invoice to Blue Pacific was \$30,766, and Blue Pacific's invoice to CUC that he saw in November 2007 was for \$125,000. He said this is a 300 to 400 percent markup on the Rydlyme's price.

When O'Malley asked him for his motive in writing the letter to OPA, the witness said there were austerity measures at that time and the prices of

gas had gone up, yet CUC was turning around by buying excessive amounts of Rydlyme.

"It violated the Ethics [Act]," he added.

During questioning by David Lujan, counsel for Villagomez, Crisostomo said he was concerned when he saw the difference in prices. He admitted, though, that he never saw a price list of the product that Procurement had received.

"You were at the warehouse and had nothing to do with procurement, at least with this transaction?" Lujan asked. Crisostomo said, "Yes."

He conceded that he has no personal knowledge that Villagomez disqualified himself from the contract.

After Crisostomo, CUC procurement specialist Joseph Fejeran took the witness stand.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom, Fejeran was still testifying.

PUC

From Page 1

there is evidence in the record that significant commercial establishments on Saipan are connected to CUC's wastewater system, but are neither metered nor billed for this wastewater system," the commission wrote in their decision.

Gawlik declined to name the entities during the public hearing. Bruce Megarr, CUC's deputy director for the Water and Sewer division, also declined to disclose the customers during Thursday's public meeting.

The hearing examiner is authorized to oversee an investigation to determine what commercial entities are not paying for service and what action may be taken. The report must be ready on or before June 1, at which time the PUC may reconsider the wastewater rates.

Rates for water were increased by 81 percent at the meeting. However, 50 percent of the increase is suspended

until June 1, in order to give the government and others time to identify funding sources. For example, a residential customer using up to 3,000 gallons used to be charged \$1 per 1,000 gallons. They will now pay \$1.41 for each 1,000 gallons. In June, the rate will go up to \$1.81 per 1,000 gallons for those customers.

During the last fiscal year, CUC's water division incurred a deficit of \$5.99 million.

In the order, the commissioners noted the rate decisions are impacted by a consent decree signed between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and CUC to compel the utility agency to adhere to federal regulations governing water, sewer, power, and fuel.

Also during Thursday's meeting, the commissioners set the new power rate at \$0.20147 per kilowatt-hour—a slight decrease from the \$0.22989 customers paid the last three months. The new rate will continue until Sept. 30, 2009, at which time a new rate will be determined.

US

From Page 1

yers noted the Department of Homeland Security granted the CNMI government's request for a 180-day delay to the start of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, which will extend U.S. immigration laws to the CNMI. The law was scheduled to go into effect June 1 but will now start Nov. 28.

"As a result of DHS' decision to delay the implementation of the challenged provisions of the CNRA, the existing CNMI immigration laws will continue to apply until November 28, 2009. Thus, in addition to the reasons provided at oral arguments on March 12, 2009, the delayed implementation of the CNRA from June 1, 2009 to November 28, 2009 is further justification for the court to deny plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction," the status report stated.

In November, lawyers for CNMI filed a preliminary injunction, asking the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to order the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Labor from taking over the local labor system.

Two months before, the Fitial administration sued the two departments in a bid to stop the federal takeover of the CNMI's immigration system.

The U.S. government earlier asked the court to dismiss both the lawsuit and the preliminary injunction.

Judge Paul L. Friedman said at the March 12 hearing he would take the case under advisement.

On Wednesday, the day the 180-day extension was announced, Gov. Benigno Fitial said the delay would have no effect on the lawsuit.

"I don't think so. I think that this lawsuit has its own place and this extension will provide all the necessary work that needs to be done to improve the implementation and enforcement of

the new immigration law," the governor said at a news briefing.

Howard Willens, special legal counsel to the governor who is representing the CNMI in the lawsuit, said the CNMI anticipated an extension might be granted, but it was made clear in the lawsuit's briefs that that does not effect the Commonwealth's entitlement to a preliminary injunction. Each party—the CNMI and the federal government—will probably submit a short statement about the extension, Willens said on Wednesday.

Fitial said the CNMI will begin to prepare for the implementation of the federalization law once a decision on the lawsuit and preliminary injunction is announced.

"We will do what we need to do after the result of the lawsuit comes out, because we don't want to be doing something that we may not have to do after all," he said, adding that the judge is aware of the deadline and should make a decision soon.

2 BOE posts up for grabs; Guerrero mulls re-election

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Two positions at the CNMI State Board of Education will be up for grabs in this November's general election.

Both terms of incumbent chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita, of Tinian, and vice chair Herman T. Guerrero, of Saipan, are about to expire this year.

Guerrero confirmed yesterday that he is seriously considering seeking re-election and is in the process of gathering signatures as required by law.

"I am seriously considering it," he said.

Guerrero has been with the board for two four-year terms. He was elected the board's chairman in 2000 prior to be-



Blanco-Maratita



Guerrero

coming its vice chair.

Blanco-Maratita, in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*, said she will decide whether to seek re-election after the summer.

Guerrero said he will continue to seek progress for PSS and its students.

Guerrero said that with the coming of stimulus funds for public schools, priority concerns such as building and facility renovations may be addressed.

Because of local budget constraints, PSS operations have been affected for the several years now. Renovations and repairs of dilapidated facilities were suspended and the meager budget has also affected PSS' ability to hire teachers.

In Fiscal Year 2008, PSS was appropriated only \$35 million for all 20 public schools and over 11,000 students. The amount was \$2 million less than what it received in FY2007, which amounted to \$37.2 million.

In FY2006, about \$2 million was also cut from its budget, which resulted in an accumulated shortfall in succeeding years.

The BOE chairwoman earlier disclosed that a portion of the

stimulus money may be used to restore classroom teachers' positions. Currently, PSS has over 500 teachers.

Guerrero said he will support the board's efforts to revisit and review its policies and regulations—both in procurement and personnel—to determine the feasibility of current policies to

the system's operation.

"We need to look at our regulations and make a review from time to time. We're not talking about revamping...but fine-tuning [the policies] to make those more effective to our system," Guerrero said.

The board is a five-member body comprising three from

Saipan and one each from Rota and Tinian. Other elected members included Marylou S. Ada and Galvin Deleon Guerrero for Saipan and Rota board member Tanya King.

Deleon Guerrero, who will run for lieutenant governor in November, may take a leave from his board position.

Stiff prison terms for two UMDA defendants

Robert Pfaff and John Larson, two primary defendants in an ongoing civil case brought by United Micronesia Development Association on Saipan, received stiff prison terms Thursday in U.S. District Court in New York for crimes that Judge Lewis Kaplan said were "so raw, so brazen, so outrageous" that they clearly "passed the line" into criminality.

Larson was sentenced to 121 months in prison and ordered to pay a \$6 million fine and Pfaff received 97 months in prison and was fined \$3 million. Kaplan ordered both men to be jailed immediately, denying bail pending an appeal because he thought there was a risk that Pfaff and Larson might flee the country.

The judge said that Larson and Pfaff were "motivated by greed" and criticized professionals who look for a "real or imagined loophole" in the legal system "to make a fortune."

Pfaff and Larson, former executives of KPMG LLP, were convicted by a federal jury of multiple counts of tax evasion in December 2008 in *U.S. v. Stein*—a case billed as the largest criminal inquiry into tax fraud in the history of the United States. Charges against KPMG were dismissed in 2007 after the company paid a \$456

million fine.

In April of 2007 UMDA filed a civil suit against Pfaff, Larson, and a number of their associates in Superior Court of the of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to recover millions of dollars for harm done to the company over a ten year period ending in 2006 when Pfaff was a director and shareholder in the company.

Russell Snow, president and CEO of UMDA, said: "After two years of litigation we hope to be going to trial in our Saipan case later this year. It's extremely important that UMDA have its day in court. Our lawsuit alleges that millions of dollars were taken from UMDA shareholders by these defendants who have been convicted in

New York and we want to have the chance to prove it to a jury here in Saipan."

Pfaff is also under separate criminal indictment in the same New York federal court in a related case that is scheduled for trial in New York in September.

According to attorney Robert O'Connor, who represents UMDA in the Saipan case, "This second federal indictment relates to Pfaff's alleged criminal activities around the globe, including the misuse of UMDA accounts and assets. The government's indictment reveals how UMDA was victimized by Mr. Pfaff and his co-conspirators and supports many of the key charges made by UMDA against Pfaff and his co-defendants in the civil suit." (*UMDA*)

Live-fire training on Farallon set

The Emergency Management Office and U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam said yesterday that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire releases on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on April 7, from 7:45am to 4pm.

The general locations of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operation section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF single side band radio on 52050. (*EMO*)



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Birthday greetings going out to Rebecca "Bekke" White, second from left, from all your DAOS! We love you! Hope you have a fantabulous day! Shown in picture are, from left, Darrah Tagabuel, birthday girl Rebecca "Bekke" White, Chris Cabrera, and Arisa Sakai Peters.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Belated birthday greetings go out to Ms. Leah Garfil, who celebrated her birthday on April 2, 2009. From your 1st Grade class at Grace Christian Academy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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NOTICE OF MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Council Members of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, through our Chairperson Marissa Guerrero, is hereby giving a notice that a Meeting is to take place on Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 9:30 AM at the Lilac Room, Saipan World Resort. The Council also chooses to exercise its right to enter into Executive Session at any point during this meeting.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Establishment of Quorum
 4. Introduction of New Members
- II. Review and Adoption of Agenda: 12/12/2008**
- III. Committees**
 1. Council Membership Review Committee
 2. Finance Committee
 3. State Plan Committee
 4. Adhoc-Human Resources/ Policy and Procedures Committee
 5. Adhoc-By Laws Committee
 6. Adhoc- Call-A-Ride Guidelines and Procedure Committee
- IV. Reports**
 1. Chair
 2. Executive Director
- V. New Business**
 1. Membership Training with OPA
- VI. Old Business**
 1. DD Awareness Month
- VII. Next Meeting**
- VIII. Adjournment**

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodation are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7003. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Marissa Guerrero, Chairperson

RESTAURANT
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Garapan, Saipan

BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Summit without soul

The headline news from Europe on Wednesday was President Obama's meeting with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, which Mr. Obama said produced "great progress" in several areas, including an agreement to quickly negotiate a new nuclear arms treaty. That step was certainly welcome, as were the slight indications of greater U.S.-Russian agreement on the nuclear threats of North Korea and Iran, and the need to confront the Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

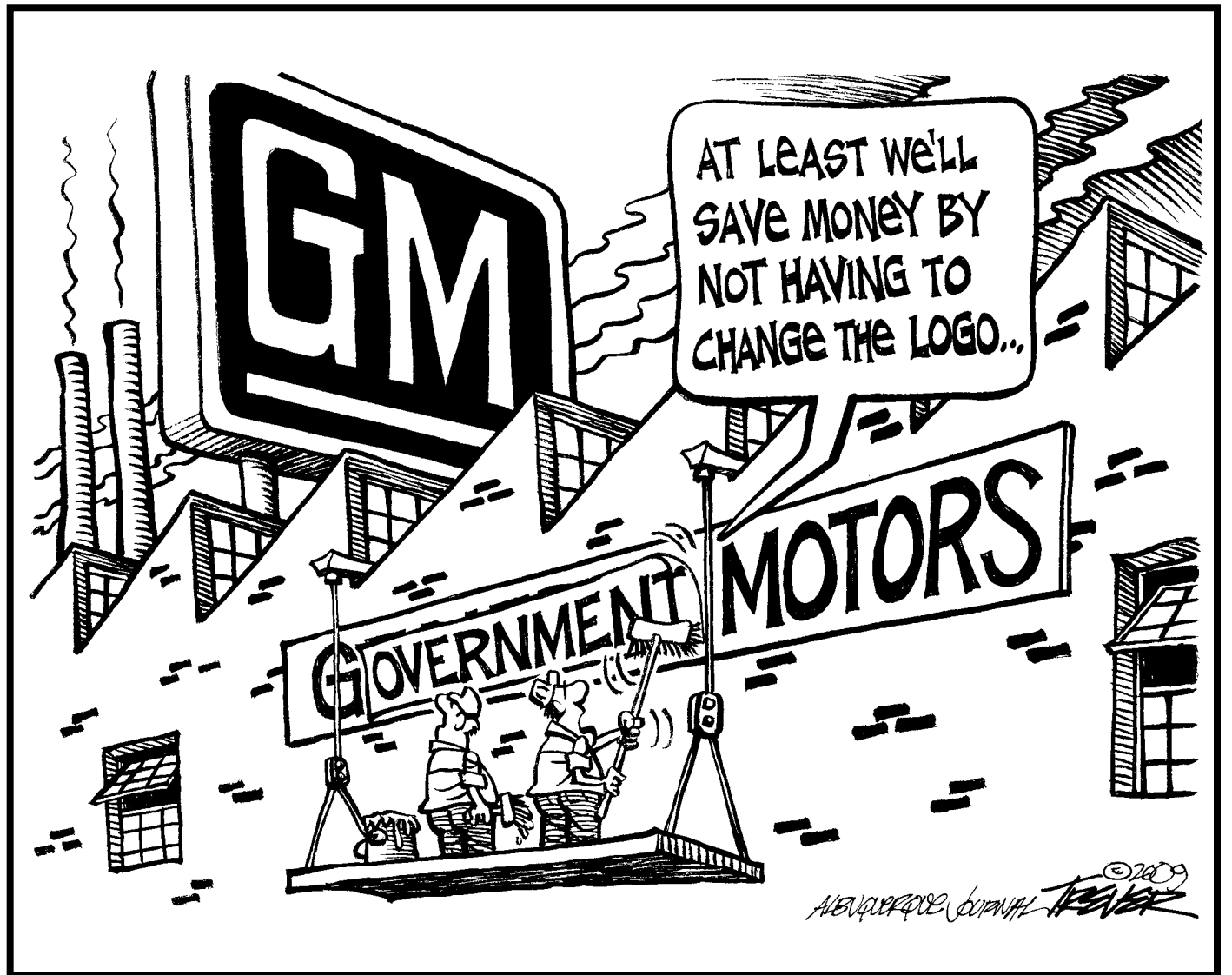
But one other, less heralded piece of news needs to be added to the upbeat reports from London if what Mr. Obama called "the beginning of new progress in U.S.-Russian relations" is to be properly assessed. That is the attack on one of Russia's foremost human rights activists, Lev Ponomarev, who was brutally beaten by a group of men outside his home in Moscow on Tuesday night, just hours before the Obama-Medvedev meeting. It was the latest in a series of brazen and unpunished assaults on opponents of the regime Mr. Medvedev represents—and its timing was almost certainly not accidental. "It was an ordered attack," Mr. Ponomarev told The Post's Phillip P. Pan this week. "It's connected with my human rights activities."

Mr. Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin have inflated ambitions; as Mr. Medvedev suggested in an op-ed published in The Post this week, they imagine the Russian-U.S. relationship as a locus for management of the world's problems. In fact, Moscow manifestly lacks the economic, military or diplomatic clout to play such a role, but arms control is one area where the interests of both nations can be furthered by bilateral engagement. While it remains to be seen whether a new nuclear accord can be reached on the tight timetable set by the two presidents, Mr. Obama was right to focus on that opportunity—and also to offer the prospect of greater economic cooperation.

Still, the new administration appears to recognize the likely pitfalls and limits of doing business with the Putin-Medvedev regime. U.S. officials briefing reporters this week were cautious in describing Mr. Medvedev's response to U.S. concerns about the Iranian nuclear program. "I don't think we want to suggest that somehow they're in agreement," said one. They emphasized that, unlike President George W. Bush—who gushed that he had glimpsed Mr. Putin's soul during their first meeting—Mr. Obama is not seeking to develop a personal relationship with the Russian leaders but rather one focused on concrete interests.

Appropriately, Mr. Obama directly raised central U.S. concerns about Russia, his aides said, including its attempt to dominate the states around it—and its worsening human rights record. The attack on Mr. Ponomarev "came up in the conversation," said one official, as well it should have. Mr. Obama is right to pragmatically pursue arms control agreements with Russia and to seek its cooperation on Iran and counterterrorism. But he must also make clear to the Kremlin that collaboration in those areas will never mean consent for Russian autocracy or neo-imperialism, and that as long as those policies persist, the regime's fantasy of a global partnership with the United States will remain just that.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



Democracy in former Soviet areas needs a friend

By LUDMILA ALEXEEVA and GREGORY SHVEDOV
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Since the end of Soviet Union, an ill-formed foreign policy apparatus has limited the United States' successes in promoting democracy and helping to create civil societies in the former Soviet states. This lack of success has led some to suggest that the United States should stop trying. But those of us on the front lines of this struggle have one message for our American friends: Don't give up.

The 2008 war in Georgia can be seen as a product of the failure to make human rights and democracy the central elements of U.S. policy—not just in Russia but in Georgia, as well. And this conflict, in turn, has made both countries less democratic and free than they were when it began. In Russia's case, this was not a change in direction. But Georgia's fast retreat from democracy since the riots of November 2007 was an abrupt about-face that generated almost no U.S. reaction. This silence legitimated Georgian authorities for actions that led to the start of the war.

This is the troubling backdrop as President Obama prepares to meet with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on Wednesday in advance of the Group of 20 summit in London. Across the former Soviet countries in the recent past, the United States has failed to respond forcefully as the right to dissent and democratic protest has lost ground. There are many examples of this: A year ago in Armenia, 10 people were killed and hundreds hurt during peaceful protests, and the only trial held in the aftermath has been of members of the opposition. At the start of this year, Radio Liberty and Voice of America were thrown out of Azerbaijan, while Russia cut by 90 percent the number of foundations and other donor groups allowed to make grants to nongovernmental organizations, severely curtailing the funding these groups need to operate. On Jan. 19, human rights lawyer Stanislav Markelov and young journalist Anastasia Baburova were shot on the streets of Moscow; no one has been charged in their murders, just as those responsible for the 2006 assassination of journalist Anna Politkovskaya remain at large.

What can the Obama administration do now to counter this backsliding? We don't have all the answers, but we suggest the following five-point program:

■ First, don't spend all your time working with government officials. Governments in non-free countries tend to monopolize the relationships between states. Deal instead with the leaders of civil society, no matter how weak they may be. New, real dialogues should be formed through annual forums or conferences of independent civil society groups of the United States and Russia. If we are to have a democratic and, hence, peaceful future, these are the leaders

who will take us there. Those in power represent the past.

■ Second, focus assistance on the institutions of civil society, working with governments when possible but bypassing them when necessary. This is especially important in the regions facing the gravest crises, such as the Northern Caucasus and South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Don't use the cowardly label "frozen conflicts regions" to avoid working in these difficult places.

■ Third, recognize the importance of the media and make sure that your commitment to the free flow of ideas never falters. Continue to support international broadcasting via Radio Liberty and Voice of America and step in to help independent media, especially Internet outlets. To thrive in these countries, these new media need support, professional development and special security programs for journalists.

■ Fourth, consider forming a single agency to direct democracy and human rights activities, and find new, effective leaders to run it. Now, too many cooks are spoiling the soup; we could accomplish more with less if there were one reliable forum for us to work together. The National Endowment for Democracy, which has helped our organization and other nongovernmental entities in Russia, is the model to follow.

■ And fifth, don't get discouraged when we don't meet our shared goals overnight. Instead, focus on developing long-term social marketing strategies aimed at fostering change in the consciousness, values and social norms of ordinary people. Real change will arise from the people, and so the people should be empowered. Democracy is never built in a day.

Underlying these points, however, is our most important message: Our struggling democratic movements need friends. Throughout the Cold War, we viewed the United States as our best friend. But in recent years we have lost the sense that the United States views us the same way.

Now, President Obama, you have the chance to restore that friendship, extending the healing process that you began in your own country to ours.

With your help, we can build the kind of open, democratic and law-based societies that you have spoken so eloquently about.

We still believe in a fundamental principle: that people are the source of political power. People who want to experience their rights can't be left to illegitimate political leadership. Will the new administration of the United States be silent on the attempt to shut up independent voices?

Ludmila Alexeeva is chair of the Moscow Helsinki Group. Gregory Shvedov is editor in chief of the Web media Caucasian Knot.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Autism Open House displays open faces

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

The awareness video clips from Autism Speaks.org are to the point. One nudged me like a rolling bolder off the complacency road. It is the image of a young child in a tub at a back yard, with a backdrop of dark clouds moving in from the horizon with sporadic sounds of thunder. The supervising adult takes the child out of the water as the atmosphere gets threatening. These words stream: Odds of being hit by a lightning: 1 out of 664,000; odds of being diagnosed with Autism: 1 out of 150.

They are just ordinary voices—young, exploring and not quite firmly sure—who helped read the governor’s proclamation of April as Autism Awareness Month, along with a parent, all starkly ordinary and yet individually unique and special. It is this awareness of our common humanity and individual diversity that has come to color our view of this not so minor minority in our body politic, the 1 of 150! It is this view of diversity within our commonality that needs to permeate all fiber of our contemporary society—economics, politics and culture—for there is no strength in union if walls are built for exclusion!

And so it was that gentle Uncle Ben, surrounded by persons with names like Maria and Marissa, Larissa and Larrisa, Nicolas and Alyssa, Alii and Jimmy, Louie and Julie, Chad and Dolores, John Carlo and Gregorio, Susan and Joann, Derek and Tom, and many others whose names are just like “yours and mine,” inked with his executive pen a focus on this condition called autism for our urgent attention and deliberate action.

Ben F. told the crowd in attendance that “I will see you again next year.” That political astuteness, and this is not meant to be pejorative, relative to the disability is not lost in the other declared gubernatorial candidates. Heinz SH authored the autism bill that will now begin a process of creating the big picture re autism in the Commonwealth. Juan Pan has members of his family who are active in Autism Society. Former Governor JB recently wrote an article sighting current figures gleaned from such sources as the PSS Special Education program and may even initiate/support a class action

vs. the toxic thimerosal in vaccines and other medications. We are not up-to-date on Kumoi’s platform but with David B. previously presiding over the education portfolio and its Special Education program, the tandem would have a proactive stance toward autism.

Starting today and for two other Saturdays in April at the Family Service 360 Parent Center at NMPASI on Pale Arnold Road (Middle Road), guest and friends will meet face-to-face with someone who is, or related to, 1 of the 150. Hidden faces not too long ago was the common practice among those diagnosed with what has now come to be recognized as a misnomer, a disability, (and we dare previously coin a new word, “differability”) to refer to that minority group whose open faces are unabashedly and celebratively on display these April Saturdays (except Holy Saturday in Lent) at the Parent Center.

The Open House doors will open at 8:30am, closing at 3:30pm without a noon break. On the 18th, there will be a rugged outdoors physical experiential system’s (ROPES) training followed by a session on the cruciality of parent participation in the service delivery process; on the 25th, SpEd’s Individualized Education Plan process will be discussed, and at the end of the day, at 3:30pm, an Autism Walk will commence at the American Memorial Park, Marina section.

The WALK is a symbolic culmination activity that focuses on the challenge of creating authentic community that supports and enables rather than excludes and discriminates. This paradigm shift that has been expressed in many documents from quality production lines to human resource systems, alternative political movements and sunrise/sunset conversation groups, traditional culture awareness and appropriation programs to the gifts of plurality and diversity meetings, is just now scratching the surface of our strategic and tactical plans of creating our future but it is making a significant headway. The openness by which the Autism Awareness month is being conducted by the Autism Society and the NMPASI and its triagency colleagues is a big step in the right direction.

We are witnessing the proceedings of the G-20 pact and the plebian convulsions down Excel Center, Fleet Street and the Victoria Docks area by the Thames in London. The word in the United States to grasp the nature of the banking crisis is the identified “toxic assets” that are

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s *Opinion Section*.

illusory entities in our financial books. Similarly, the debate between genetics and environment that has accompanied research on autism has since been won by the latter with the high level of toxicity in our environment, our food chain, and the mindless avarice of pharmaceuticals.

While a six-hour event on three Saturdays in April is a simple matter, the profound implication of building community from the perspective of openness is staggering. The newness targets possibility before limitations, generosity of resource before scarcity of means, the sharing of gifts before the frenzy of acquisition and possession.

It spills over the economic summit dealing with Obama’s stimulus package in that we would be served best if we zero in on proposal making rather than problem solving, on natural, human and technology resource appropriation rather than cowering in fear culture, in the rehabilitation of short-sighted efforts rather than on heavy-handed retribution over perceived past failures.

We know that small groups are the unit of transformation and are the valued container for the experience of belonging; that transformation is linguistic, which means that we must think of community as practical conversations. At every level of our society, we live in the landscape of retribution rather than affirmation. We live out of stories that limit our possibility (“can’t do that,” or, every lawful enactment has eight oversight provisions!) rather than stories that give meaning to our lives, help us find our voice, and free our self-expressions.

Our existing community context markets fear, assigns fault and worships self-interest. It is time to dig deeper into the treasures of humanness. The platform of faith I am familiar has this credo: For all that had been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes! For all that is, Amen! Come meet, join and celebrate with us at the Open House!

How song, dance and movies helped bail us out of the Depression

By **MORRIS DICKSTEIN**

SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Many were surprised that the final stimulus legislation signed by President Barack Obama preserved a \$50-million increase in arts funding that had been the subject of a heated battle in Congress. Although it amounted to only a fraction of the measure’s total cost, it had become the target of conservatives, many of whom consider the arts frivolous, elitist and, frankly, left-wing. They showed their disdain in February when they pushed for—and passed—a Senate amendment ruling out stimulus funds for museums, arts centers and theaters.

That shortsighted decision was reversed at the last moment, after supporters made a good case that the arts are often the linchpin of downtown neighborhoods, creating jobs and providing many other economic benefits: stimulating business, promoting urban renewal and attracting tourists.

But was that really the point? Is that really why we need the arts? These days, it seems that every discussion of the economic situation includes the obligatory comparison to the prolonged crisis of the 1930s, yet what the Depression and the New Deal actually showed is that the value of the arts goes well beyond job creation and economic stimulus.

Studies of the 1930s have shown how the economic meltdown was accompanied by psychological depression: loss of morale, a sense of despair, grave fears for the future. Going to the movies or listening to the radio could not solve these problems, but they could ease them in the same way that President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s intimate fireside chats boosted morale and restored confidence.

The most durable cliché about the arts in the 1930s is that despite the

surge of social consciousness among writers, photographers and painters (some of it supported by federal dollars), the arts offered Depression audiences little more than fluffy escapism, which was just what they needed.

But that’s not the whole story. It’s certainly a paradox that dire economic times produced such a fizzy, buoyant popular culture. From the warring couples of screwball comedy and the magical dancing of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers to the sophisticated music and lyrics of Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hart, and the Gershwins, the ‘30s generated mass entertainment legendary for its wit, elegance and style. This culture had its roots in the devil-may-care world of the 1920s, but it took on new meaning as the Depression deepened.

The engine of the arts in the ‘30s was not escapism, as we sometimes imagine, but speed, energy and movement at a time of economic stagnation and social malaise. When Warner Bros.—which avoided bankruptcy with its lively and topical gangster films, backstage musicals and Depression melodramas—promised a “New Deal in Entertainment,” it was offering the cultural equivalent of the New Deal, a psychological stimulus package that might energize a shaken public.

With his roots in the ethnic slums, the gangster was a dynamic figure who somehow mastered his own fate even as he trampled on other people’s lives. Busby Berkeley’s showgirls were at the center of glittering fables of success and failure, wondrous changes in fortunes that resonated for ‘30s audiences. Against all odds, the performers came together into a working community; so did the stricken victims in topical melodramas right up through “The Grapes of Wrath,” who discovered that they were helpless on their own but had a chance if they banded together and helped one another.

If we look at the arts as a life-giving form of social therapy, many other fads and fashions of the 1930s fall into place. The thrust of

the culture, like the aims of the New Deal, was to get the country moving again. At cross-purposes in conversation, Astaire and Rogers seem perfectly ill-matched. Endlessly bickering with each other, they can agree on nothing. But once they dance, a swirling poetry of movement takes over.

The public also loved comedies about the very rich. Everyone could feel superior to their silliness, the weightlessness of their lives, yet live vicariously through their energy, irresponsibility and freedom, the snap of their delicious dialogue. Meanwhile, musical standards created a seductive dreamland, somewhere “over the rainbow,” a better world where cloudy skies and rainy days somehow promised “pennies from heaven.”

The propulsive swing music of the big bands, produced by performers and band leaders such as Duke Ellington, Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman, brought jazz to a mass audience for the first time—jazz to dance to, not simply to listen to. It filled the airwaves, ballrooms, nightclubs, even concert halls.

The visual equivalent of swing music was Art Deco. Gifted designers such as Raymond Loewy, Donald Deskey, Walter Dorwin Teague and Norman Bel Geddes stimulated consumption by putting a fluid sense of movement into everything from locomotives to table radios, projecting the consumer into a streamlined future otherwise hard to imagine. This culminated in the design of the 1939 New York World’s Fair, with its flowing crowds and futuristic visions of “The World of Tomorrow.”

Today’s economic and cultural climate is still a long way from the Depression, which was already in its fourth year when FDR kicked off the New Deal. A quarter of the work force was unemployed. The stock market had crashed, and the banking system had failed. Yet there are eerie resemblances, especially in the crisis of confidence that froze credit markets and blasted consumer spending almost overnight in mid-September.

There is little sign so far of how the arts will respond to the damage done to our confidence and morale this time around. But moviegoing already has increased by almost 16 percent this year. We know from the 1930s that the stimulating effect of art and entertainment comes not only in the jobs produced but in the emotional links with the public that absorbs this work and takes it to heart.

The arts can be a lifeline as well as a pleasant diversion, a source of optimism and energy as well as peerless insight, especially when so many people are stymied or perplexed by the unexpected changes in their world. As our troubles worsen, as stress morphs into anxiety and depression, we may desperately need the mixture of the real and the fantastic, the sober and the silly, that only the arts can bring us.

Dickstein teaches literature and film at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York. His new book, Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression, will be published in September.

Letter to the Editor

Keep Marpi unspoiled

First, I firmly believe the residents of Saipan are the only ones who should decide the proper use of their own land. I felt the need to comment after reading the letter from Jesse Torres about the use of the land in Marpi, but I offer these comments only as the views of a visitor of recent years.

When I think of Saipan (and that is often) Marpi is an important part of that image. The quiet, unspoiled view from the cliffs, the surf pounding the rocky coast, and Bird Island are among the most vivid images of Saipan that come to mind. I’m sure many others who have visited Saipan feel the same.

When I read about a new hotel going up in the Marpi area, I wonder why it is needed when the visitor numbers and hotel occupancy have declined and so many hotel rooms sit empty. Is there land available for homesteads in other areas that are already under development? Please carefully consider the best long-term use of the beautiful Marpi area for the people of Saipan, not just a quick solution in difficult times. This area is unique in the Marianas—Guam, Tinian, and Rota don’t have anything quite like it. Keep it like it is for future generations.






Gary Boothe

Brandon, South Dakota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲90 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼75

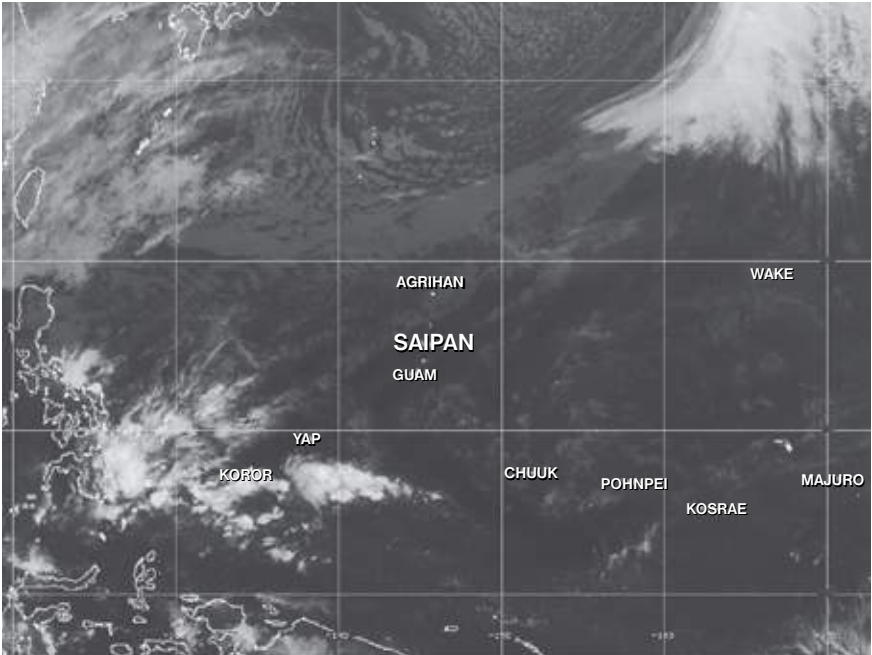
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲66 ▼54
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▼46
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲75 ▼72
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲77 ▼72
London	Showers	▲59 ▼39
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲68 ▼50
Manila	Showers	▲87 ▼76
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲63 ▼48
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼71
New York	Partly Sunny	▲57 ▼42
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲54 ▼41
Paris	Cloudy	▲60 ▼41
Pusan	Cloudy	▲66 ▼44
Rome	Showers	▲65 ▼49
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲55 ▼37
San Francisco	Sunny	▲61 ▼46
Seoul	Sunny	▲55 ▼38
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲58 ▼47
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲65 ▼44

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:21 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:34 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
2:02 PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:44 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends from 25N1150E southwestward to 20N147E then continues as a shear line past 130E at 11N. Patchy clouds and scattered light showers are along and up to 600 miles northwest of a line from 11N130E to 25N155E. Trade-wind convergence enhanced by upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms at Palau and near Yap within an area bounded by a line from 12N130e to 8N143E to 3N146E to 2N135E to 5N130E back to 12N130E and within 120 miles of 12N136E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:34 PM	1:53 AM
Sunday	2:33 PM	2:41 AM
Monday	3:30 PM	3:25 AM
Tuesday	4:24 PM	4:07 AM
Wednesday	5:17 PM	4:46 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7 CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9600 10:20am 11:10am Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 099 5:00am 7:35am Daily NW 078 8:20am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 100 8:45pm 1:10am+1 Daily
Guam-Narita NW 73 4:10pm 7:00pm Daily NW 81 3:55pm 6:55pm Daily	Narita-Guam NW 74 9:45am 2:20pm Daily NW 82 10:30am 3:10pm Daily
Saipan-Osaka OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1,4,6	Osaka-Saipan OZ 120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7
Guam-Osaka NW 79 4:45pm 7:35pm Daily	Osaka-Guam NW 80 10:30am 3:00pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:20am 11:05am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:20am+1 Daily
Guam-Nagoya NW 23 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	Nagoya-Guam NW 24 10:00am 2:30pm Daily
Saipan-Incheon OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 119 4:00am 11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily	Incheon-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:20am 6:50am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:00pm 2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6	Shanghai-Saipan FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5
Rota-Guam CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7	Guam-Rota CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6
Guam-Palau CO 953 7:40pm 8:40pm 1,7 CO 893 5:50pm 6:50pm 3,5	Palau-Guam CO 954 2:30am 5:25am 1,2 CO 892 2:35am 5:30am 4,6
Palau-Manila CO 893 7:35pm 9:10pm 3,5	Manila-Palau CO 892 10:10pm 1:50am+1 3,5
Guam-Manila CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:05am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Nagoya-Manila NW 71 8:40pm 11:55pm Daily	Manila-Nagoya NW 72 6:30am 11:05am Daily
Incheon-Hongkong OZ 721 9:20am 12:00pm Daily OZ 723 7:45pm 10:35pm Daily OZ 7173 8:00pm 10:50pm 5,7	Hongkong-Incheon OZ 724 12:30am 4:50am Daily OZ 7183 12:45am 5:05am 1,4,6 OZ 722 1:30pm 5:45pm Daily
Narita-Manila NW 1 7:00pm 10:55pm Daily	Manila-Narita NW 2 7:45am 12:40pm Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Jury: University of Colorado wrongly fired prof

DENVER (AP)—A jury ruled Thursday that the University of Colorado wrongly fired the professor who compared some Sept. 11 victims to a Nazi, a verdict that gives the professor \$1 and a chance to get his job back. Then-Gov. Bill Owens was among the officials who called on the university to fire Ward Churchill after his essay touched off a national firestorm, but the tenured professor of ethnic studies was ultimately terminated on charges of research misconduct. Churchill said claims including plagiarism were just a cover and that he never would have been fired if it weren't for the essay in which he called World Trade Center victims "little Eichmanns," a reference to Adolf Eichmann, the Nazi leader who orchestrated the Holocaust. Jurors agreed. When the verdict was read, Churchill hugged his attorney, David Lane, and his wife, Natsu Saito.

New storm barrage causes train collision in South

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Another barrage of storms hit the southeast Thursday, bring threats of tornadoes, causing a passenger train to hit a fallen tree and sending at least one person to the hospital after lightning struck a home. Flood warnings as well as tornado watches and warnings were in effect around the region. In south Mississippi, an Amtrak train hit a tree the storm knocked onto the tracks Thursday afternoon south of McComb in Pike County, injuring the conductor, said Carlene Statham, assistant director of Pike County Civil Defense. The train was headed from Chicago to New Orleans with 71 passengers aboard when it hit the tree, Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari said. The only report of an injury was the conductor, who complained of back pain. Only the engine lost contact with the tracks and the "the train is powered, lit and heated," Magliari said. He said the passengers would be put on chartered buses and taken to their destinations.

Ohio man fights possible deportation to Germany

CLEVELAND (AP)—An Ohio man accused of serving as a Nazi death camp guard asked a U.S. immigration court Thursday to stop his ordered deportation to Germany to face possible trial. A German arrest warrant accuses Ukrainian native John Demjanjuk of 29,000 counts of acting as an accessory to murder at the Sobibor camp in occupied Poland during World War II. Demjanjuk, who turns 89 on Friday, lives in the Cleveland suburb of Seven Hills. His lawyer John Broadley on Thursday filed an emergency motion for a stay of removal and a motion to reopen the proceedings. He said deporting the ill Demjanjuk would be cruel. "What they are planning to do to this old man in the U.S. and Germany will be extremely painful and amounts to torture," he said. Broadley said he filed the motions in the Immigration Court in Arlington, Va., which has administrative control over immigration cases in Cleveland.

Blagojevich indicted on federal corruption charges

CHICAGO (AP)—Ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and five others were indicted Thursday on charges of scheming to auction off President Barack Obama's vacant U.S. Senate seat, pressuring a congressman for campaign money and lying to FBI agents. The 19-count indictment alleges Blagojevich and his aides discussed the possibility he could get a Cabinet post in the new president's administration, substantial fundraising assistance or a high-paying job in exchange for the Senate seat.

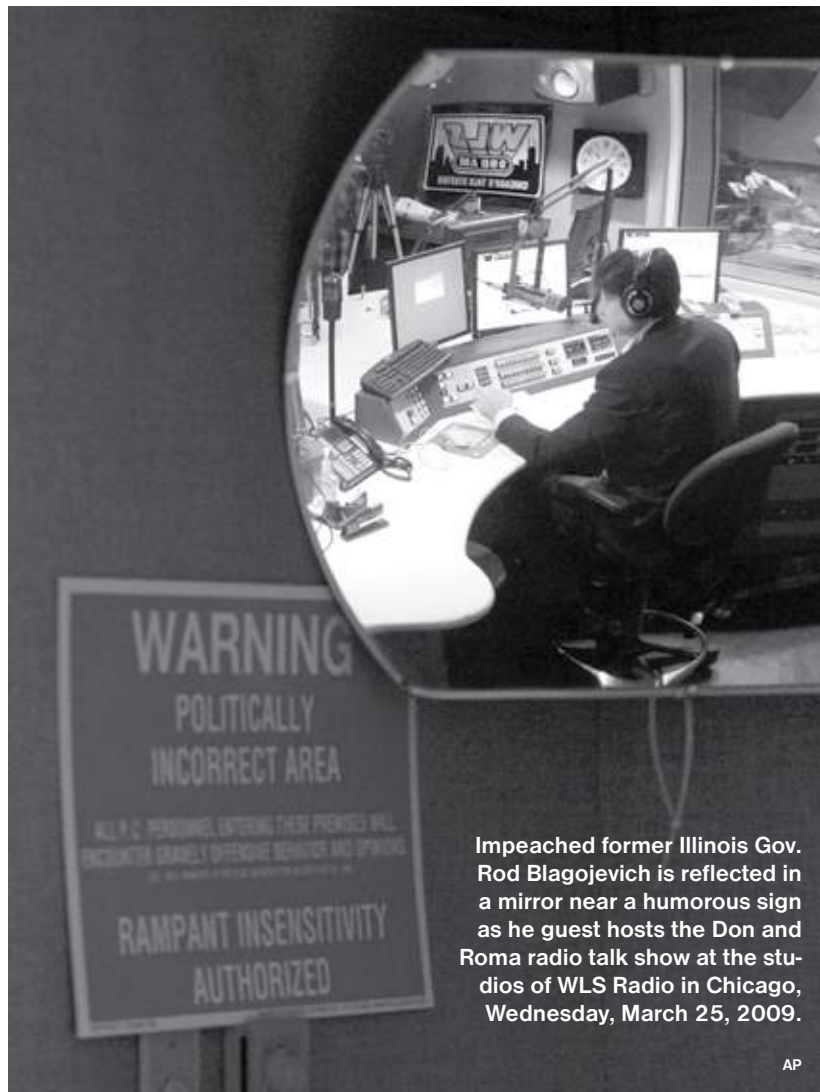
Obama's Deputy Press Secretary, Josh Earnest, said the White House would not comment.

The indictment also charged that Blagojevich was involved in a corrupt scheme to get a massive kickback in exchange for the refinancing of billions of dollars in state pension funds. It said he took part in a plan with convicted political fixer Antoin "Tony" Rezko and two others to make money while Blagojevich was governor, then split the profits after he left the office.

Blagojevich, 52, and others are accused of illegally pressuring an Illinois congressman for help in raising funds and lying when FBI agents came to question him.

His publicist, Glenn Selig, said a statement would be issued shortly.

Blagojevich was arrested Dec. 9 on a criminal complaint, and U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald had faced a



Just published photos show MLK killing aftermath

ATLANTA (AP)—Almost 41 years to the day after the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, newly published photographs of the aftermath of his shooting at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., are on a magazine's Web site.

About a dozen black-and-white pictures published on <http://www.life.com> Thursday include scenes of King's associates meeting solemnly in the civil rights leader's motel room, standing on the balcony where he stood for the last time, and workers cleaning the last of the blood.

They were taken April 4, 1968, by Life magazine photographer Henry Groskinsky, who was on assignment in Alabama with writer Mike Silva when they learned that King had been shot in Memphis and rushed to the scene.

To their surprise, they had access not

just to the motel but to King's room.

"I was very discreet. I shot just enough to document what was going on. I didn't want to make a nuisance of myself," the 75-year-old Groskinsky said in the caption to a photo showing a group of King's associates, including Andrew Young and the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, assembled inside the room.

"It's very somber, and there I am with a flash camera. So I took a couple of pictures and just kind of backed off," Groskinsky said.

There was no explanation on the Web site of why the photographs have not been published before now. A phone number for Groskinsky could not be obtained to reach him for comment Thursday night. Attempts to reach representatives from Time & Life and Getty Images were unsuccessful.

Vermont House gives preliminary OK to gay marriage

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—After impassioned pleas from gay and lesbian legislators sharing their own love stories in front of hundreds of partisans packing the chamber, the Vermont House on Thursday advanced a bill that would allow same-sex couples to marry.

Rep. Jason Lorber, D-Burlington, told of seeing his and his partner's civil union announcement in the newspaper in a "civil union" category separate from the marriage announcements.

"Why do we have to differentiate?" a weeping Lorber asked his House colleagues. "Why do we have to say you are different? Why can't we just say 'Congratulations'" when same-sex couples wed?"

After about five hours of debate, the House gave the bill preliminary approval on a 95-52 roll call vote. The

margin was less than the two-thirds majority that would be needed for the 150-member House to override Gov. Jim Douglas' promised veto. The Senate previously passed the bill 26-4, so a veto override is seen as likely there.

Opponents of the measure spoke of their respect for its advocates. One, Rep. Albert "Sonny" Audette, D-South Burlington, expressed sadness at having concluded he was required by his church to vote no.

"I am a devout Catholic," Audette said. "My religion at this point would not want me to vote for this. I wish that I could and I hope for the best and I congratulate the people who are trying to get this through."

Only Massachusetts and Connecticut permit same-sex marriage. California, which briefly allowed it before a voter initiative in November repealed

King was in Memphis to support black sanitary workers who had been on strike. The day before he was killed, King delivered his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" address in which he said, "I have seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. And I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

He was standing on the balcony at about 6 p.m. the next day, when James Earl Ray fatally shot him with a high-powered rifle. Some of the more famous photos of that day show people on the balcony pointing toward where they heard the shots fired from across the street and one of King after being felled by the bullet.

it, allows domestic partnerships, as do a handful of other states.

Rep. Duncan Kilmartin, R-Newport, said he feared that people who oppose same-sex marriage would have their beliefs impinged upon by the law. He said a Massachusetts court had ruled against parents who objected to their children being taught in a public school that gay and lesbian couples have "an acceptable lifestyle."

"You do not have the right to demand that we approve same-sex marriage, even if you pass a law saying it's the law of Vermont," Kilmartin said.

Rep. Rick Hube, R-Londonderry, said he favored limited government and maximizing the ability for people to choose their own lifestyles. He said he had voted against Vermont's first-in-the-nation civil union law in 2000 but had changed his thinking.

Tuesday deadline to supplant it with an indictment from a federal grand jury.

The Democrat's arrest meant curtains for his political career: The Illinois House impeached him Jan. 9, and the Senate convicted him and removed him from office Jan. 29.

Others charged in the indictment include the former governor's brother, Robert Blagojevich, one-time chief fundraiser Christopher G. Kelly, former aide Lon Monk, Springfield lobbyist-millionaire William F. Cellini and former chief of staff John Harris.

Prosecutors said Harris has agreed to cooperate in the case.

Blagojevich's administration has been under federal investigation for years. Kelly and Rezko already have been convicted of federal crimes and are facing prison.

The former governor's wife, Patti, had been mentioned prominently in the complaint and was the focus of considerable speculation, but she was not charged in the indictment.

Educators decry SC governor's anti-bailout stance

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Parents and teachers in a state with one of the nation's worst graduation rates are predicting their governor's vow to reject federal cash for schools will cost hundreds of teaching jobs, crowd classrooms and hurt poor children.

Republican Gov. Mark Sanford faces a Friday deadline to decide whether he will refuse \$700 million in federal stimulus cash, primarily for education over two years, which he says would be better spent paying down debt. "I understand the issue of trying to pay down debt. But it's akin to trying to pay off your mortgage while your kids are starving," said Frank Morgan, superintendent of schools in rural Kershaw County, which educates roughly 13,000 children.

Sanford says legislators can write an adequate budget without the money and dismisses a growing chorus of fellow Republicans, editorial writers, former supporters and protesting teachers as victims of political scare tactics.

"In fairness to the teachers, I would be frightened, too," the governor said a day after hundreds of educators rallied outside the Statehouse chanting "Pink slip Sanford."

Detractors counter that Sanford is trying to raise his national profile for a 2012 presidential bid and push an impractical libertarian philosophy that includes using taxpayer money to pay for private schools. He disputes that.

At issue is a portion of the \$2.8 billion in stimulus cash intended for this recession-battered state, which had the nation's second-highest unemployment rate in February.

"What kind of message do we send to the rest of nation, not to mention to our own kids, if South Carolina becomes the only state to refuse funds aimed at helping public schools?" state schools chief Jim Rex said Thursday.

Asia

NKorea launch a test for international law

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea says it has the right to put a satellite into orbit under an international space treaty. The U.S. and others, suspicious the planned launch is really a test of a long-range military missile, say firing any rocket would violate a United Nations ban.

As with many legal areas, there is room for debate.

Experts say differences in the wording of the U.N. Security Council resolutions on the North's missile testing and the United Nations' Outer Space Treaty open the way to interpretation, which may be enough to allow Pyongyang to escape punishment for a launch.

The Security Council censured North Korea twice in 2006, first for carrying out a ballistic missile test that July and then for conducting a nuclear test explosion three months later.

Security Council Resolution 1718, adopted after the underground atomic blast, said Pyongyang "shall suspend all activities related to its ballistic missile program and in this context re-establish its pre-existing commitments to a moratorium on missile launching."

But a 1967 U.N. treaty says outer space "shall be free for exploration and use by all states without discrimination of any kind."

North Korea insists its impending rocket launch falls under the treaty's allowances, saying it wants to put a satellite in orbit. The com-



This satellite image provided by DigitalGlobe shows a missile on the launchpad at Musudan-ni, North Korea formally known as Taepo-dong missile launch facility. The image was collected Sunday March 29, 2009.

munist regime has been careful to follow the spirit of the treaty, keeping the world apprised of its plans, unlike its unannounced missile launches in 1998 and 2006.

Asian voices gain force as crisis drags on

LONDON (AP)—Asian nations, who dominate the roster of industrializing economies, have won a greater say in salvaging and reshaping the global system that brought them unprecedented prosperity but now threatens to reverse that progress.

The sweeping consensus on reviving growth and stepping

up surveillance of international financial institutions reached Thursday at the Group of 20 summit of major economies reflects that growing sway.

"I believe people will be encouraged by the fact that China and India and Japan and many countries ... we've all been able to come together in a way we

could never have done even a year or two ago and designed quite detailed proposals that will reshape the global financial system," a jubilant British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said as the one-day meeting wrapped up with a pledge of \$1.1 trillion in loans and guarantees to developing countries.

wounded. "We are on alert, and we are ready for fighting at any time," he told The Associated Press. "If Thai soldiers come here, Cambodian soldiers will open fire without warning." Thai military officials could not immediately be reached for comment. The two sides regularly dispute each others' claims.

Critics assail Afghan law that 'legalizes rape'

KABUL (AP)—A new Afghan law makes it legal for men to rape their wives, human rights groups and some Afghan lawmakers said Thursday, accusing President Hamid Karzai of signing the legislation to bolster his re-election prospects. Critics worry the legislation undermines hard-won rights for women enacted after the fall of the Taliban's strict Islamist regime. The law—which some lawmakers say was never debated in parliament—is intended to regulate family life inside Afghanistan's Shiite community, which makes up about 20 percent of this country of 30 million people. The law does not affect Afghan Sunnis. One of the most controversial articles stipulates the wife "is bound to preen for her husband as and when he desires." "As long as the husband is not traveling, he has the right to have sexual intercourse with his wife every fourth night," Article 132 of the law says. "Unless the wife is ill or has any kind of illness that intercourse could aggravate, the wife is bound to give a positive response to the sexual desires of her husband."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malaysia's new PM inherits flagging economy

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's new Prime Minister Najib Razak took office Friday, inheriting myriad challenges, including a flagging economy, a racially divided society and a moribund ruling party. The 55-year-old, British educated Najib replaced Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to become the country's sixth prime minister. Abdullah resigned Thursday—part of a power transition dictated by the ruling United Malays National Organization in the wake of massive losses in last year's general elections. In a simple ceremony at the national palace, Najib swore to "pour my full loyalty into Malaysia and preserve, protect and defend the Constitution." He wore traditional Malay dress—a black tunic and loose trousers with a knee-length gold embroidered cloth tied around the waist—and was accompanied by his wife, Rosmah.

Cambodian troops open fire at Thai border

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Cambodian troops said Friday a brief gunfight broke out with Thai soldiers at their tense border near the 11th century Preah Vihear temple, the site of increasingly regular conflicts between the neighbors. Cambodian troops fired on some 60 Thai soldiers after they entered Cambodian territory, sparking a gun battle that lasted about 10 minutes, said Yim Kheang, a Cambodian soldier at the border. He said no Cambodian soldiers were

World



U.S. President Barack Obama, left, smiles with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, centre, and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev during a group photo at the G20 Summit in the Excel centre in London, Thursday, April 2, 2009.

Summiteers OK big loans, no econ rescue stimulus

LONDON (AP)—Anxiously assembled at the most perilous moment for the global economy since the Great Depression, the world's financial powers pledged more than \$1 trillion Thursday for emergency loans to contain the contagion. But they rebuffed President Barack Obama's bid for new stimulus spending and made no guarantees of success.

"This was the day the world came together to fight back

against global recession," declared British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, the summit host, as he led a choreographed show of unity designed to boost confidence in homes and boardrooms everywhere. "This is just the beginning," added Obama.

No one promised an immediate impact, and all agreed much remained to be done.

Besides promising \$1.1 trillion for lending to less-well-off

countries—an effort to erect an economic firewall and prop up remaining markets for bigger nations' exports—the Group of 20 industrial and developing countries vowed major efforts to clean up banks' tattered balance sheets and get credit flowing again, to shut down global tax havens and to tighten regulation over hedge funds and other financial high-flyers in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Mexico reports arrest of major drug suspect

MEXICO CITY (AP)—An heir to one of Mexico's most notorious narcotics empires was grabbed by police as he exercised in a city park, officials announced Thursday, shortly before U.S. and Mexican Cabinet officials met to coordinate attacks on escalating drug violence.

Vicente Carrillo Leyva allegedly inherited a top position in the Juarez cartel from his father Amado Carrillo Fuentes, who was nicknamed "the Lord of the Skies" for sending jetliners full of cocaine to the United States.

The father was considered Mexico's No. 1 drug trafficker when he died in 1997 during

plastic surgery to change his appearance. The U.S. Embassy said Thursday that the embattled remnant of his cartel is still "one of Mexico's most ruthless organized criminal gangs, which controls one of the primary transportation routes for illegal drug shipments into the United States."

WORLD BRIEFS

Rival Palestinian factions resume unity talks

CAIRO (AP)—Rival Palestinian groups Hamas and Fatah have resumed reconciliation talks aimed at producing a power-sharing government. The previous round of talks broke down last month, threatening deeper Arab divisions and setting back efforts for a durable Israel-Hamas peace. The key sticking point is the new government's program and to what extent Hamas would abide by past accords with Israel. The official MENA news agency says Egypt's intelligence chief Omar Suleiman is leading the talks Wednesday in Cairo. Fatah's delegation is led by Ahmed Qurei and Nabil Shaath. The top Hamas negotiator is the militant group's deputy leader Moussa Abu Marzouk. Hamas seized the Gaza Strip in a bloody 2007 power struggle, leaving Fatah in control of the West Bank.

Israeli foreign minister questioned in bribe case

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli police interrogated the country's new hardline foreign minister for more than seven hours on Thursday in connection with an ongoing bribery investigation. Avigdor Lieberman was questioned at the headquarters of the national fraud squad in central Israel on allegations of receiving bribes, money laundering and breach of trust, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said. The questioning was connected to a long-standing investigation into Lie-

berman's business dealings, Rosenfeld said. The foreign minister's lawyer and daughter have also been questioned in the case. Lieberman denies any wrongdoing and says the probe is politically motivated. "This investigation is going on for 13 years. In today's investigation Lieberman cooperated and answered investigators' questions," Lieberman's spokeswoman Irena Etinger said.

Police, protesters clash before NATO summit

STRASBOURG, France (AP)—Riot police used tear gas and rubber bullets to beat back a crowd of several hundred anti-NATO protesters in Strasbourg on Thursday as the city in eastern France, host of the alliance's 60th anniversary summit, readied for the arrival of world leaders. Police lobbed hundreds of tear gas canisters during clashes between about 40 riot police and some 200 masked protesters in the neighborhood of Neuhoef, in the southern part of the city near the German border. The masked protesters had been among a crowd of about 800 demonstrators when they broke away and repeatedly pelted officers with rocks and bottles. There were no immediate reports of injuries. Police said a dozen protesters were arrested. At one point, protesters set fire in the middle of a street to building materials they had scooped up from a nearby construction site. By late Thursday, calm had returned to Strasbourg, but two more full days of planned protests lie ahead.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, April 4, 2009

10 help OFWs hone English, plan reading skills

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sixty-five Filipino workers set aside three hours of their weekends to improve or upgrade their English language and plan reading skills with the help of 10 Filipino volunteer professionals between January and March.

Philippine labor attaché Joann Lourdes Lavilla yesterday said the dedication and generosity of the 10 volunteer teachers are deeply appreciated, considering that they gave up hours of their weekends to help others.

"The *bayanihan* spirit is alive in these volunteers,"

Lavilla told *Saipan Tribune*.

She also congratulated the 65 students for their perseverance, and "for making the decision to improve their skills and knowledge."

On March 27, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office handed certificates of completion to 44 workers who completed the Plan Reading Course for three hours on Sundays from Feb. 1 to March 22.

Nine officers and members of the Marianas Filipino Engineers and Architects Association led by president Bong de Guzman conducted the classes.

Carlito Marquez, MAFEA secretary and one of the vol-

unteer teachers, said he was glad to impart his knowledge and skills to others.

He said the course taught students from different fields how to read civil, mechanical, structural and electrical project plans, among other things.

"The students asked us if we could also teach advanced plan reading that will include calculation. MAFEA is willing to do that," Marquez said.

Besides de Guzman and Marquez, the other plan reading course instructors were Jun Dela Cruz, Hector Sevilla, Erick Tabanda, Ruel Magtalas, Danny Bicara, Roger Talapian, and Jun Liberato.

Lavilla said what's also interesting about the plan reading course was that two Filipino workers on Tinian were coming to Saipan every weekend just to attend the course.

"Just like the others, they also persevered in their studies," Lavilla added.

Fe Calixterio, a retired educator and a former director of Northern Marianas College's Adult Basic Education and GED Services, also volunteered her time and knowledge of the English language with Filipino workers.

Twenty-one students completed the Basic English Language Development Course

conducted by Calixterio, in cooperation with the University of the Philippines Alumni Association-CNMI Chapter, every Saturday from Jan. 17 to March 28.

The Plan Reading and the English Language Development Courses are among the Philippine Overseas Labor Office's skills upgrading program courses.

Since their inception, these skills upgrading courses have helped thousands of Filipino workers in the CNMI further improve their skills.

POLO also offers courses on basic and advanced computer operations, computer fixing and

troubleshooting, basic Japanese/Nihonggo, basic automotive troubleshooting, communication in the workplace, dress making, home décor, basic baking, basic bread making, culinary arts, and food processing, among other things.

"Just recently, for those courses related to livelihood and entrepreneurship, we added a session wherein students are taught simple business concepts. This is part of the reintegration program for overseas Filipino workers," Lavilla said.

The home décor course was the first class given additional session on business concepts.

Remittances via non-bank channels shrinking

MANILA, Philippines—There has been a big drop in the use of non-formal channels by overseas Filipino workers in remitting money to their families, the central bank, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, said, adding this development could benefit the country's foreign exchange reserves.

Money remittances through non-formal channels—including personal couriers and unregistered money transfer centers—have dropped to about five percent of the amount sent through formal channels, from up to 30 percent five years ago, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said.

A problem in the use of non-formal channels is that the foreign-currency remittances are usually converted into pesos before they are sent to the Philippines, which deprives the country of dollars that could otherwise be included in the gross international reserves (GIR), Guinigundo said.

The GIR reached a record high of \$37.6 billion in 2008.

Guinigundo said OFWs were now relying more on formal channels—banks and registered cash transfer agents—to send money to their families in the Philippines.

Guinigundo said establishment of offshore branches by Philippine banks was the main reason for the drop in the use of non-formal channels for remittances. Another is a recent cut in the banks' remittance charges.

For this year, the BSP expects remittances to reach \$16.4 billion, the same as last year's level, because of the world financial crisis, after steadily rising in the past several years.



BARRICADED SHANTIES

Residents taunt demolition crew as they burn tires and set up barricades in an effort to prevent the demolition of their shanties at suburban Paranaque south of Manila, Philippines Thursday April 2, 2009. About 135 poor families are affected as they demand a moratorium in the so-called illegal demolition of their shanties in times of economic crisis.

HK writer: 'So sorry, I crossed the line'

By CYNTHIA BALANA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—A Hong Kong magazine columnist Wednesday admitted that he had indeed crossed the line when he branded the Philippines a "nation of servants" and apologized to the government and its people.

"I realized that I had crossed the line. I now offer my public apology," columnist Chip Tsao said in interview aired at about 7:30 p.m. Tuesday night over Hong Kong's ATV.

The Philippine consulate in Hong Kong relayed the apol-

ogy to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

On Monday, the publishers of HK Magazine, Asia City Publishing Group, also issued an apology for "any offense" caused by Tsao's article.

A group of Filipino migrant workers in HK have planned a protest rally against Tsao on Sunday. Dolores Balladares, chair of United Filipinos in HK, said she expected thousands of marchers.

Racist, demeaning

"We are united in our position that the article was racist, discriminatory and demeaning to Filipino

domestic workers in HK."

Tsao was Wednesday quoted in a report by Agence France Presse as saying the article was a satire and "was never intended to be insulting to the Filipino domestic workers."

He then added that "English, being a global language, is open to different interpretations by those who come from various cultural backgrounds."

Tsao's column titled "War at Home," published in HK magazine on March 27, made fun of the Philippine claim on Spratly Islands and satirized the response of Hong Kong Chinese who have Filipino domestics in their employ.

LABOR FRONT

Repatriation costs for alien workers in illegal employment

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Q: Who will be responsible for the repatriation costs of an alien worker who is employed illegally by another employer?

A: The new Labor Rules and Regulations state that in situations in which there is a last employer of record and a foreign national worker has also been employed illegally by another employer, the Labor director may assess repatriation costs entirely to the last employer of record, entirely to the illegal employer, or partially to both employers.

The regulations provide that if an alien worker has been employed illegally and a last employer of record is assessed repatriation costs, that employer may recover the assessed repatriation costs from the illegal employer in an action before the Superior Court.

■ ■ ■

Q: Can the Labor director assess full repatriation costs on an illegal employer of an alien worker?

A: According to the regulations, an employer who employs an alien worker without an approved employment contract, without an approved security contract or without an approved health insurance contract, or who is otherwise in violation of Commonwealth law shall be assessed full or partial repatriation costs by the Labor director.

An employer of a foreign national worker under temporary work authorization is not responsible for repatriation costs.

■ ■ ■

Q: How does Labor determine who is the last employer of record?

A: According to Labor, the last employer of record is the employer under the most recent approved employment contract on file at Labor, with respect to the alien worker. The last employer of record is responsible for all of the costs of repatriation of a foreign national worker.

Repatriation costs include the costs with respect to the embalming and transport of deceased workers back to the point of hire.

Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, Garapan.

Filipino Red Cross hostage freed, 2 others alive

JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Filipino Red Cross worker freed by al-Qaida-linked militants Thursday after 10 weeks of captivity in a southern Philippine jungle told a government official that the remaining Swiss and Italian hostages were alive but tired and in danger.

The unexpected release of Mary Jean Lacaba and news that her colleagues have not been killed came after the Abu Sayyaf militants threatened to behead one of the hostages on Tuesday because Philippine forces refused to withdraw from the surrounding area.

Abu Sayyaf gunmen handed over the 37-year-old Lacaba in the jungles near Indanan township on Jolo Island without

any ransom payment, government negotiator Lady Anne Sahidulla said.

Lacaba was taken in a wheelchair to a Jolo military hospital, looking weak and confused amid the frenzy over her

release. Wearing a red Muslim head scarf known as a hijab, she held a flashlight and talked on a cell phone. Doctors gave her a bowl of porridge before giving her a checkup.



Mary Jean Lacaba, a Filipino International Red Cross worker kidnapped by Muslim extremist Abu Sayyaf Group, is wheeled by Philippine troops for medical check-up following her release Thursday evening April 2, 2009 after 10 weeks in captivity in the jungles of Jolo in southern Philippines. Lacaba told authorities her two kidnapped colleagues, an Italian and a Swiss, are still alive raising hopes for continuing negotiations for their release. **AP**

“Thank you so much, sir. I’ve cried so many times,” Sen. Richard Gordon, the head of the local Red Cross, quoted her as telling him on the phone shortly after her release.

Gordon said she asked him to press the military to ease operations because the remaining hostages—Italian Eugenio Vagni and Andreas Notter from Switzerland—were very, very tired and suffering so much.”

The hostages survived through two deadly jungle clashes between the militants and government forces.

“This is the answer to our people’s

prayers,” President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said.

Alain Aeschlimann, a Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross official, renewed an appeal for the unconditional release of Vagni and Notter, saying “the nightmare of this abduction is not over.”

Gordon urged the Abu Sayyaf captors not to harm the remaining hostages, one of whom now walks with a cane. “I’m appealing to them not to harm them and I also appeal to the military also to take it slowly and let’s not act if it’s dangerous.”

No ransom paid—DILG chief

By ABIGAIL KWOK
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—There was no ransom paid for the release of Abu Sayyaf captive Filipina Mary Jean Lacaba, Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno said on Friday.

At a press briefing in Camp Crame, Puno said that Lacaba’s release on Thursday night was brought by the “change of environment for the kidnappers in Sulu,” as government

troops assumed their former positions in the province.

At the same time, Puno said that as of 9 a.m., Lacaba was promptly turned over to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as the organization requested that Lacaba be given private time with her family.

“We are very happy but there is much more to be done. We intend to do whatever is necessary,” Puno said, referring to the two remaining hostages, Eugenio Vagni and Andreas Notter.”

MANILA, Philippines—The mastermind of the gruesome “Cochise-Beebom” double murder in April 1990 has been granted executive clemency by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Rodolfo M. Manalili—who, along with four others, drew double life terms for abducting and killing Ernesto “Cochise” Bernabe II and his girlfriend Ana Lourdes “Beebom” Castaños—was among the 10 prisoners whose sentences were commuted by Ms Arroyo on March 26, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said.

Ermita released the names of the prisoners who had been granted clemency during his regular press briefing on Wednesday.

Manalili’s sentence was shortened to 20-25 years.

In what turned out to be a case of mistaken identity, Bernabe, 26, and Castaños, 22, were abducted by armed men as they were about to enter a hamburger restaurant on Timog Avenue in Quezon City on April 25, 1990.

They were killed the next day in Pampanga province; their bodies, which bore multiple stab wounds, were found two months later.

A trial court found Manalili, Roberto Lising, Felimon Garcia, Robin Manga and Enrico Dizon guilty of the murders and sentenced each of them to double life imprisonment in 1992. The ruling was affirmed by the Supreme Court six years later.

It was the Board of Pardons and Parole that had recommended clemency for the prisoners, according to Undersecretary Anthony Golez, a deputy spokesperson of Arroyo.

“The President ministerially signs [the recommendation]. It goes through a process,” Golez said.

He could give no details on the commutation of sentence of any of the prisoners, and referred the reporter to the Department of Justice to find out the basis for the recommendation.

‘Good conduct’

Public Attorney’s Office chief Persida

‘Cochise-Beebom’ killer gets GMA clemency

By TJ BURGONIO, ALLISON LOPEZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Acosta said Manalili, who has served 18 years of his sentence, could be released immediately if the BPP would credit to him seven years of “good conduct time allowance.”

Acosta said her office had recommended Manalili for executive clemency because he was qualified for it. (Manalili is supposed to serve a maximum of 40 years behind bars.)

“If you’ve done 17 years, you’re already qualified for commutation. Only 17 years is required for convicts with double life sentences because they serve the two sentences collectively. For those with a single life sentence, only 15 years is needed to qualify,” she said.

Supt. Bartolome Bustamante of the Bureau of Corrections said the commutation did not mean that Manalili would be automatically released from the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City, where he is detained.

“We have not released anyone since last week. He still has to serve his sentence if it’s commuted,” Bustamante said.

Bloody decade

The Cochise-Beebom double murder was one of the sensational cases in the 1990s, which also saw the killing of Maureen Hultman, Eldon Maguan and Estrellita Vizconde and her daughters.

At the time, Bernabe had just graduated from the University of the Philippines’ College of Law and was reviewing for the bar exams, and Castaños was a graduating mass communication student, also at the UP. Both excelled in academic and extracurricular activities.

On that fateful evening, they were

accosted by armed men as they walked toward the front door of Dayrit’s Hamburger, forced into a car and brought to a motel in San Fernando, Pampanga, where they were killed.

According to court records, Manalili hired policemen Lising and Dizon and former Constabulary soldier Manga through Garcia to arrest one Robert Herrera, whom Manalili had suspected of killing his brother Delfin.

Manalili ordered the four men to meet with his employee Vic Lisboa who could point to Herrera and his whereabouts.

Family relations

Late in June 1990, a police source was quoted as saying that Herrera was the boyfriend of Delfin Manalili’s ex-wife,



INQUIRER PHOTO
Rodolfo Manalili arrives in Manila Jan. 14, 1991, after his arrest by then NBI Director Alfredo Lim in Melbourne, Australia.

Joy Liz, who was the sister of Castaños’ father.

On April 23 and 24, 1990, Lising, Dizon, Garcia and Manga, together with Lisboa, staked out the Castaños residence in the hope of seeing Herrera, to no avail.

The next day, they resumed surveillance at around 5 p.m. Two hours later, they were alerted by Lisboa that Herrera had entered the Castaños residence.

Later, they saw a man and a woman (Bernabe and Castaños) leave the house in a Mitsubishi Lancer sedan. They tailed the pair up to the restaurant.

As soon as Bernabe and Castaños alighted, the men pointed their guns at them, and forced them into their car.

Manalili later testified that the men had mistaken Bernabe for Herrera.

Front-page news

The abduction of the pair was front-page news for weeks.

On June 21, 1990, two security guards working in a warehouse in San Fernando went to the Pasay City office of Bernabe’s mother, Rosie, and told her they had information on her son.

The guards said they had been informed by warehouse workers Raul Morales and Jun Medrano that their boss, policeman Lising, had killed a man and a woman in the warehouse.

In his account to authorities, Morales said that in the early morning of April 26, 1990, Lising and some armed men arrived at the warehouse with Bernabe and Castaños.

Morales said he heard Castaños plead innocence to a man she called “Uncle” (later identified as Manalili):

“Parang awa mo naman, wala naman kaming kasalanan.”

According to Morales, Lising and Garcia stabbed Bernabe to death in the warehouse. The men then forced Castaños into a car and drove off.

On June 25, 1990, Bernabe’s body was exhumed by investigators. Castaños’ body was found the next day in a shallow grave two kilometers away.

Authorities arrested Lising, Dizon and Manga on separate occasions in 1990 and 1991. Garcia surrendered in January 1991.

In Australia

Manalili was arrested in Australia by then National Bureau of Investigation Director Alfredo Lim, now the mayor of Manila.

He admitted to hiring the other four men to get Herrera in exchange for P50,000. But he claimed that when he saw that they had gotten the wrong people, he immediately told Lising to release the latter.

Manalili said he flew to Australia in June 1990 after Lising demanded P60,000 from him and threatened to kill or implicate him in the double murder if he did not comply.

On July 1, 1992, a Quezon City trial court found the five men guilty of double murder and sentenced each of them to double reclusion perpetua.

The court also found Lising, Dizon and Manga guilty of slight illegal detention and sentenced each of them to reclusion temporal (imprisonment of from 17 years, four months and one day to 20 years).

It ordered the five men to pay P3.5 million in damages to Bernabe’s family and P900,000 to Castaños’ family.

The Supreme Court affirmed the double murder decision on Jan. 16, 1998. But it modified the crime of slight illegal detention to kidnapping and sentenced Lising, Dizon and Manga to reclusion perpetua, thus upping their punishment to three life terms. **With Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research**

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Shabu lab raided; P15-M drugs seized

MANILA, Philippines—Another “kitchen-type” drug laboratory was raided Thursday by police operatives and agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Quezon City, the fourth to be discovered in Metro Manila and Rizal province since last month. At the same time, two police officers were suspended following reports that a policeman might have helped the owners of the laboratory escape arrest. Seized from Unit 1003 of the BGSIS Mansions on N. S. Amoranto Ave. were P15 million worth of methamphetamine hydrochloride and drug-making equipment. Maj. Val Lopez, PDEA Complaint and Reaction Unit chief, said the condominium unit was among the shabu laboratories being run by the “Tiger Group” of the Chinese Triad, one of several drug cells believed to be operating in the Philippines, mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

‘US soldiers in Balikatan given women nightly’

MANILA, Philippines—Is the Philippines now a brothel for Uncle Sam? Sen. Francis Pangilinan Thursday expressed concern over reports that American soldiers involved in the Balikatan joint military exercise with Filipino troops in Bicol were supplied with women nightly. “This is yet more proof the Visiting Forces Agreement is doing us more harm than good. The VFA has turned us into a whorehouse for US soldiers,” said Pangilinan in a phone interview. Pangilinan said he was drafting a Senate resolution to inquire into the “prostitution aspect” of the annual military exercise between Philippine and US forces. The VFA governs the conduct of US troops visiting the country. It has been under fire lately for favoring US military personnel who run afoul of Philippine laws. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

3 soldiers killed in Camarines Sur ambush

MANILA, Philippines—(UPDATE) A band of communist rebels killed three soldiers and wounded two Scout Rangers in an ambush late Wednesday in Ragay, Camarines Sur, a police official said Thursday. Chief Supt. Paterno Bangui, Bicol regional police director, identified those killed as Pfc. Noel Bagao, Pfc. Rolly Boy Caitor and Cpl. James Coronan and those wounded as Pfc. Domingo Solares and Pfc. Ricardo Nelson Salvador. The two wounded soldiers were rushed to the nearest hospital in Ragay Town. Bangui said the soldiers were onboard four motorcycles going to the Ragay public market to buy food and other supplies when they were ambushed in Barangay Upper Sta. Cruz, Ragay, Camarines Sur at around 4:30 p.m. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

North Cotabato villagers flee fighting

COTABATO CITY, Philippines—Hundreds of residents from remote villages of Alamada, North Cotabato have fled their homes as skirmishes between government forces and Moro rebels continued Thursday, Alamada Mayor Ernesto Concepcion said. Citing a report from the municipal social welfare office, Concepcion said about 500 families have sought refuge in at least three neighboring villages, some 15 kilometers away from Barangay

Upper Dado, where fighting between the military and Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels have been raging since Tuesday. At least three soldiers and 12 rebels had already died in the clashes, according to Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Ponce, spokesperson of the military’s 6th Infantry Division. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

Palace to ask Dutch gov’t ‘expel’ CPP founder

MANILA, Philippines—The government would press the Dutch government to “expel” Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Ma. Sison and send him back to the Philippines to face murder charges, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s security adviser said Thursday. Since the Philippines has no extradition treaty with the Netherlands, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said Malacañang would write to the Dutch government to seek the communist leader’s return

to the country. “We will look into our laws and their laws to find ways to have Sison expelled from the Netherlands and back to the country. We will really go after him,” Gonzales said in a statement. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

Aunt of Bb. Pilipinas Int’l shot dead

LEGAZPI CITY, Philippines—An aunt of this year’s Binibing Pilipinas International was shot dead by two unidentified motorcycle-riding hit men at around 7 p.m. Wednesday here, police said Thursday. SPO3 Jason Puyo, investigator of the Legazpi City Police Office, said Maridel Antonette Gonzales, 44, was shot several times as she was about to enter her house in Ridgeway Subdivision in Buraguis village here. Gonzales, aunt of Melody Gersbach, 2009 Binibing Pilipinas International, died on the spot. Puyo said police were still investigating the

killing, looking into love triangle and business dispute as possible angles. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

Nursing student shot in Lucena gang war

LUCENA CITY, Philippines—An 18-year-old nursing student is in critical condition in a hospital here when she was caught in the middle of a gang war and shot in the face late Wednesday, police said Thursday morning. SPO3 Renato Pelobello, police investigator, identified the victim as Maria Karrisa Abdala, resident of Arcadia Street, Capitol Homesite Subdivision, Barangay Cotta in the outskirts of this city. According to witness Ednylin Odiver, friend of the victim, she and Abdala were at a neighborhood store around 10 p.m. buying softdrinks when a group of youngsters suddenly arrived and threw stones at the direction of rival gang members who were gathered

nearby. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

Singaporean aiding Abus a JI member—Gonzales

MANILA, Philippines—A Singaporean terrorist aiding the Abu Sayyaf bandits holding three Red Cross aid workers in Jolo Island is a member of the dreaded Jemaah Islamiyah, officials said Thursday. “He’s a member of JI. The Abu Sayyaf is the only organization that has an official tie-up with the JI,” National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said in a phone interview. The JI, a radical Islamic terrorist group in Indonesia with links to al-Qaida, had long been suspected by the military of funding the Abu Sayyaf. Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno said the Singaporean was serving as interpreter for the bandit group in its negotiations with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the government. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY

What to do with your first paycheck

Editor’s Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: I finished my marketing degree this March and I’m all set to start working at a bank this April. My parents have always told me to handle my money well once I start working. What advice can you give to a new graduate like me starting on her first job with regard to handling money? — Annie

Answer: First off, congratulations, Annie, on your graduation and for bag-

ging that job so soon!

There are so many things one can do with a first paycheck – treating your parents to a nice lunch or dinner, or having coffee with your very close friends. But while spending time with those dear to you may be good, it’s even wiser to have a long-term outlook and spend your first paycheck accordingly.

Here are some ways you can spend your first few paychecks and lay the groundwork for your financial independence:

1. Start an emergency fund.

This fund will help you tide over the hard times if something happens such

as a job loss or illness. Use part of your first paycheck to open a savings account which should be separate from your payroll account (so you can make sure you won’t touch or spend this fund). Commit to deposit at least 10 percent of your take-home pay to this account every month. Then once you have built up this fund, transfer some of it to a higher-yielding account like a special time deposit or investment vehicles like mutual funds or unit investment trust funds.

2. Get health insurance.

In case your employer does not offer a health insurance package as part of your benefits, make sure you get one yourself. You can’t tell when you will get sick and need hospitalization. Insurance will ensure you will be able to meet your hospital and health care needs. And if you get a policy at your age, the premiums will be lower.

3. Get life insurance, especially if you have dependents.

This will protect your family from financial burden should you pass away. It’s not too early to think of that and prepare for it right now. As with health insurance, the younger you are when you get a policy, the lower the premiums will be. You don’t need top-of-the-line insurance products right now. Just get one that will cover you for a fixed term and offers affordable premiums.

4. Pay off debts.

In case you have tuition-related loans or other forms of debt, use part of your first paychecks to keep yourself debt-free. Then when you get your first credit card, be prudent in making purchases. Every purchase you make with a credit card becomes a debt you have to pay.

5. Start a retirement fund.

Retirement seems a very long way off when you haven’t even started your job yet. However, if you commit to set aside a specific amount each month for the rest of your working life, you will have enough to have the lifestyle you want at retirement. Your retirement fund can take the form of a pension plan, a provident fund at work, and mutual fund or unit investment trust fund

purchase. If you start saving early for retirement, compound interest will build it up faster. Hold this investment for the long term. Resist using this fund for other purposes (if you want to buy a car, for instance, start a car fund separately).

These may all sound overwhelming, but with these first goals, you will be on the road to financial dependence in no time. Remember the ant which saves up food little by little over time. At the end, the ant has enough food for the rainy days.

With these goals, adopt these money habits too:

1. As soon as you receive your paycheck, pay yourself first. That means taking away the money for your retirement fund and emergency fund, and depositing it directly to your account. By deducting the said amounts even before you spend your income, you will ensure you will have enough money for the future.

2. Spend less than what you earn. This is what is called living within your means. Spending more than what you earn means you are living in debt and are living to pay off your debts.

3. Make a budget. “A budget helps you organize your spending. It tells you how much money comes in, how much money goes out, and where the money goes,” says the booklet *Use Credit Wisely* published by Citibank. List down all your fixed obligations such as health insurance and life insurance premiums, rent, and the like. Then live on what is left. You can adjust your other spending (for food, transportation and entertainment, for example) based on how much money you have left.

Good money habits started early will benefit you in the long run.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader’s reliance on information obtained from our web site.



GAMING EXPO

An electronic roulette is reflected on mirror on top as people enjoy the game during the gaming exhibition Thursday, April 2, 2009 in Paranaque City, south of Manila, Philippines. The exhibition was attended by some European and Asian gaming officials and was part of the government’s effort to invite investors in the country.

AP

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Ces Drilon's captors still ask for 'pasa load'

MANILA, Philippines—I immensely enjoyed my interview/bonding time with Ces Drilon for my daily show with IC, "Chikaletric" on Viva Cinema Channel. It was the first time we saw each other since her captivity in Sulu, although we've been in touch after her release by the Abu Sayyaf.

Has Ces fully recovered from her harrowing kidnap experience? "Thank God, I'm OK now," she said, "though I gained back the pounds I lost during my captivity. Losing weight was the only good thing that happened to me during that traumatic time."

She's now writing a book about her ordeal, which she plans to release in June (exactly a year after the incident).

"It made me realize that life is indeed short," she mused. "I'm still willing to go back to Mindanao. I want to know what drives them to do such bizarre things."

Her close call with death during her captivity has prompted her to do a weekly 45-minute docu-drama show, "I Survived!" (Thursdays after "Bandila" on ABS-CBN). Ces will interact with people who lived through life-threatening circumstances such as disasters, crime, accidents, and adventures.

"I feature survivors of near-death encounters," she said. "We do a re-enactment of the tragedy they went through."

Is she still in touch with her captors? "Would you believe they text me asking for pasa load? ... (Laughs.)"

The load is now off her back as she reaches out to other "survivors" in her show. Kudos to you, V.S. You not only survived. You prevailed. You're truly the winner in the survival of the "fiercest."

Unsettled debt

Pop singer Nina says ex-BF Nyoy Volante hasn't settled his huge debt to her. "It's bad enough that he hasn't paid me. All his post-dated checks bounced," she reveals.

"Worse, he hasn't even bothered to communicate with me. I plan to sue him."

Sad that a million pesos can ruin everything between two people who used to be one in a million to each other.

Hefty bonus

Boss Vic del Rosario of Viva Films refutes allegations that their major star Sarah Geronimo got only 500K as talent fee for her two blockbuster movies, "A Very Special Love" and "You Changed My Life," both joint productions of Star Cinema and Viva.

A production insider says Boss Vic added enough moolah to make Sarah's fee equal to her co-star John Lloyd Cruz. The amount remains undisclosed. He also gave Sarah a hefty bonus. Boss Vic wouldn't have lasted in the biz for so long if he didn't know how to take care of his wards and com-

pensate them properly.

Pacman's demands

A highly-placed source told me that, prior to Manny Pacquiao's transfer to GMA 7 from ABS-CBN a few years back, Pacman had unreasonable demands and the Kapamilya network refused to budge. So he jumped ship and became a Kapuso.

Now that he is staying with GMA after his thwarted transfer to ABS, I wonder what sort of demands he made. The prized fighter has a way of making the networks fight.

Beach boy

Dingdong Dantes plans to spend Holy Week at any nice beach resort. "I want to be surrounded by water and peaceful people," says Dong. "My most meaningful cuaresma was when I reenacted the sufferings of Christ when I was 8."

Concert week

Karylle is spending Holy Week in Subic. "I'm having a healing concert with Ricky Davao, Jackielou Blanco, Christian Bautista, Kyla and Bethesda at the Boardwalk," says K. "I'll never forget Maundy Thursday last year because during rehearsals, we saw the dancing sun." K's now dancing on sunshine with all the well-deserved breaks coming her way.

Holy Week destinations

On Holy Week, Cesar Montano and Sunshine Cruz are off to the US, Precious Lara Quigaman is flying to Bristol, UK and Miriam Quiambao is Bali-bound. Stars usually work even during holidays. So they must find peace and quiet during Semana Santa lest they go crazy and exclaim, "Santa Santissima!"

Madame on board

I had a blast at the 7107 Islands mid-night cruise on Manila Bay. Guest of honor was Madame Imelda Marcos. Veteran balladeers Jun Polistico and Anthony Castelo performed on board.

It was fun chatting with Madame, who was in a jolly mood. "I don't mind if people use Imeldific as an expression," she says. "It has become synonymous with fabulous."

Some of her post-Malacañang thoughts? "At least when they raided my closet, they found no skeletons. Only shoes. That makes me well-heeled (laughs)."

Madame let her hair down and gamely jammed with Jun and Anthony. She thanked the dashing owner of the ship, Steve Tajanlangit, for promoting the country. "We have so many unexplored islands. It's a good thing Steve thought of buying a ship so that more Pinoys and foreigners can see the unmatched beauty of the Philippines."

See for yourself and join the Holy Week cruise (April 8 to 16) to Coron, Palawan and Marinduque (www.7107islandscruise.net, tel. no. 887-7107). You'll never get bored on board. Ship, ship Hooray!

Charice makes Muhammad Ali smile in tribute

By **POCHOLO CONCEPCION**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Jetlagged and sleepless after flying in from the United States, Filipino singing sensation Charice Pempengco visited the main office of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in Makati City Tuesday and gladly talked about her ongoing adventure with worldwide fame.

She's staying in Manila for only two days. On Thursday, she flies to Italy to appear as a special guest in a TV talent show—on the request of young viewers themselves.

"I'm singing duets with Italian superstars," the petite Charice, dressed in jeans splattered with bright colors and matched by high-cut sneakers, said in an endearing mix of Filipino and English.

The breaks seem to come from the most unexpected places for Charice, who turns 17 on May 10. Just a week ago, she finished shooting for her first Hollywood movie, "Alvin and the Chipmunks Part 2: The Squeakquel."

Her role in the animation film—as a contestant in a high school musical contest—was specially created after she passed the audition.

'The Greatest'

And just three days ago, she sang in a star-studded tribute for the legendary boxing champion Muhammad Ali.

"They said it was historic because lately, it was only I who had managed to make him smile," she said.

Charice recalled that before her performance, she was thinking about what could possibly catch the attention of "The Greatest," who's now afflicted with Parkinson's Syndrome.

She proceeded to sing the first of her three numbers, Beyonce's "Listen." On her second song, Michael Jackson's "Billy Jean," she did the famous "Ali Shuffle."

The night's honoree reportedly smiled—something he rarely does nowadays.



Filipino singing sensation Charice Pempengco

When she followed it up with Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive," Ali was teary-eyed.

"His wife was also crying," said Charice. "I approached them and stood on the table. Ali embraced me, and kissed me!"

Oprah

The road Charice has been treading over the past year is being paved by some of the most powerful figures in the international entertainment industry.

She's now represented overseas by Creative Artists Agency, a high-profile, Los Angeles-based booking outfit whose clients include Steven Spielberg, Brad Pitt, George Clooney, LeBron James, Will Ferrell, Will Smith and Oprah Winfrey.

Her debut album, currently in the works and due for release late this year, is being handled by David Foster—a musician, singer-songwriter and producer who has worked with such stars as Whitney Houston, Céline Dion, Cher, Andrea Bocelli, Chicago, Earth Wind and Fire, Chaka Khan, Barbra Streisand, Kenny Rogers, Boyz n the Ring, Michael Jackson and Madonna.

Charice singles out Oprah—aside from other prominent people who have helped her in the wake of her phenomenal discovery on YouTube—as the one responsible for all the breaks.

"She said she couldn't forget me after I made a guest appearance for the first time at the 'Oprah Winfrey Show,'" Charice recounted.

"It seems that after I left the studio, Oprah's staff was trying to sing like me ... When she got home, her helpers were talking about me ... And then, before she went to bed and when she got up, it was still me she was thinking of. So when we were about to fly back to Manila, she had our plane stopped."

Don't stop dreaming

Is there one thing she has learned from Oprah?

Charice paused and said: "Her super-super-duper attitude that one should not stop dreaming."

If her dream of becoming a star—and her remarkable talent—could make Oprah literally stop the plane, Charice's visit to the *Inquirer* had everyone amazed at her guts and confidence.

Sauntering in as the editors ended the daily story conference, she worked the room and then sang a cappella a traditional Filipino ballad, George Canseco's *Paano Kita Mapasalamat*.

Iwa Moto copes with love and loss

By **BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Kapuso siren Iwa Moto couldn't understand why some people were quick to judge her. "They called me a liar. Last time I had an interview, I was mad at my dad. Then, I was crying on TV."

She explained: "It's normal for family members to have a few misunderstandings. What's important is that my dad and I patched things up before he died."

Iwa's father, Hiroaki Iwamoto, passed away due to liver and bone cancer on March 8 in Japan.

He was 49, Iwa told *Inquirer* Entertainment.

She admitted that she had a troubled relationship with her dad, who had been separated from her Filipino mom Precy and started a new family.

Iwa looked back: "I miss those times he'd scold me whenever I got home late. He supported my show biz career because it would help me earn my own money, but he got upset when

I went sexy."

Apologies

She said that she visited him in Japan on two occasions. "We got to talk. I apologized for my mistakes. He also said sorry for his shortcomings," Iwa recounted.

His illness, Iwa said, enriched their relationship. "We've always been close, but when he got sick, we had more time for each other."

She said her dad consistently put on a brave front for her benefit. "I'd be half-asleep and I'd hear him crying, while reminiscing with my mom, who was with me at the time. Once I heard him tell her, 'Our two daughters are so grown-up.' But once I was awake, he'd go back to his old jolly self."

His passing caught her by surprise. "Earlier that day, he got to talk with my mom by phone and he said he was okay."

Iwa's sister, Miki, is flying to Japan to retrieve their father's ashes.

Before his passing, Iwa said her dad instructed her to take care of her

younger sister and half-brother. "He made me promise I wouldn't neglect them. Yes, he's only my half-brother, but he's still my kadugo (blood relative). Should he ever need my help, he can call me anytime."

Iwa acknowledged that she often mines her "dramatic" life whenever she needs to cry onscreen.

"My directors always tell me to think about the past," she noted. "Problem is, I find it hard to break free; I would continue sobbing even after the take."

To hone her acting skills, Iwa is currently taking workshops under GMA Artist Center and from filmmaker Joel Lamangan.

She is set to top-bill an indie horror flick, "Rock 'n' Roll," under director Soxie Topacio. "I'm focusing on work to get my mind away from my problems," she admitted.

But there's a rumor that she's quarrelling with non-show biz boyfriend Michael Ablan.

"That's not true," she quipped. "We don't know what will happen tomorrow but, as of now, I'm happy with him."

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Maids and mothers

Rep. Risa Hontiveros of the Akbayan party-list group on Sunday condemned as “disgusting, derogatory and vile” an article written by a Hong Kong columnist and broadcaster calling the Philippines “a nation of servants.” Writing about the Philippines’ and China’s conflicting claims on the Spratly islands, Chip Tsao urged his countrymen not to bow to the Philippines because there are more than 130,000 Filipino maids providing cheap labor in Hong Kong. Hontiveros took offense at Tsao’s article and said HK Magazine, which carried the story, should apologize immediately for the racial slur.

Tsao and his compatriots should realize that Filipinas are forced to work abroad because of lack of good-paying jobs in the Philippines. Many of these maids are teachers and professionals with university degrees who work as maids and earn salaries that are several times what they would earn in their own country.

Tsao and his ilk look down on the Filipino maids who do menial and backbreaking work. But do they realize that without their Filipino maids, they would not be able to work at high-paying jobs and enterprises? Probably the Filipino servants should make good their threat to go on strike.

The Filipino maids are surrogate mothers, nursemaids, teachers and guardians to the children of the Hong Kong businessmen and professionals. Now they are being denigrated for being “only servants.”

Not too long ago, the situation was the reverse: Chinese amahs (literally, “little mothers”) from Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland were hired by rich Filipino families to take care of their children. Now it is the rich Chinese families, mostly in Hong Kong, that employ servants from the Philippines and other South-east Asian countries.

The Filipinas have been singled out for racial discrimination, exploitation and denigration. But Tsao should realize that domestic work is a decent job. When you come down to it, what are mothers if not domestic workers who put a lot of love into their daily work for their families?

The Filipinas may be servants “only,” but they are performing a very important role in the economy and society of Hong Kong. If Chip Tsao (real name: To Kit) is a man and a gentleman, he should apologize immediately to the Philippines and the Filipinas.

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South China Sea standoff

The naval standoff between the United States and China on March 8 in the South China Sea broke the ice of US President Barack Obama’s frosty relations with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Last Saturday, Obama called Ms Arroyo to reaffirm the US strategic alliance with the Philippines and Washington’s commitment to the Visiting Forces Agreement, after rebuffing three humiliating attempts by Ms Arroyo to talk with him during the past five months.

The unexpected call sent Malacañang officials into a paroxysm of joy, believing the call ended Obama’s ostracism of Ms Arroyo. This is not so. Many Filipinos are not craving to return to the one-sided “special relations” with the United States. If Obama has now ceased to snub the Filipino president, it is not because he has upgraded his esteem of her. We have to credit geopolitical strategic reasons for the change of heart. Obama has now come to realize that China has started to test the mettle of the new American president to maintain the unchallenged naval power of the US to rule the seas of the Pacific basin, extending up to the South China Sea.

The Obama call came two weeks after the US Navy came close to a collision with the Chinese Navy in disputed international waters about 120 km south of China’s Hainan Island in the South China Sea. On March 8, an unarmed US Navy vessel, *Impeccable*, surveying the ocean floor for submarines, was approached by five Chinese boats—naval and civilian—that “aggressively maneuvered” around the *Impeccable*, according to the Pentagon, “in an apparent coordinated effort to harass the US ocean surveillance ship while it was conducting routine operations in international waters.” The *Impeccable* is designed specifically to detect underwater threats such as submarines for the US Navy, the BBC reported. Chinese sailors waved Chinese flags and told the *Impeccable* to leave. The US ship sprayed one Chinese vessel with water from fire hoses to try to force it away, the Pentagon said.

But the Chinese crew stripped to their underwear and approached to within 8 meters.

The Pentagon identified a Chinese naval intelligence gathering ship among the five. When the *Impeccable* radioed to request safe path to leave the area, two Chinese vessels dropped pieces of wood in its path, forcing the US ship to make an emergency stop, the Pentagon said.

“The unprofessional maneuvers by Chinese vessels violated the requirement under international law

to operate with due regard for the rights and safety of other lawful users of the ocean,” a Pentagon spokesman said. “We expect Chinese ships to act responsibly and refrain from provocative activities that could lead to miscalculation or collision at sea.”

The Chinese say the *Impeccable* was on a spy mission. Detecting submarines is one of her roles, and Hainan is home to Chinese submarine bases.

The Chinese foreign ministry said the vessel was in China’s exclusive economic zone. It accused the *Impeccable* of violating international and Chinese law.

According to the BBC, the standoff may be an example of China testing the mettle of the new US administration, just as it did when it impounded a US reconnaissance aircraft immediately after George W. Bush took office eight years ago. It held the crew of the plane, which figured in a collision with a Chinese fighter jet, for 11 days, causing a serious diplomatic row between the two countries. The midair collision of a Chinese fighter with an American spy plane in April 2001 became the first foreign-policy crisis of the Bush presidency.

China followed this incident with further signals asserting its claim of hegemony over the South China Sea when it announced that it had its “most modern patrol ship” in the South China Sea following the *Impeccable* incident and the signing of the Philippine



Analysis

By AMANDO DORONILA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

baselines law. The *Beijing News* said the vessel could conduct patrols off what it called China’s exclusive maritime zone in the disputed waters surrounding the Paracel and Spratly Islands. It said the naval rescue ship would aid Chinese fishing boats and transport vessels.

The Philippines passed the Baselines Law two weeks ago that lays claim to disputed islands in the Spratlys chain also claimed by China. Beijing has called the law “illegal and invalid.”

Obama’s call to President Arroyo came in the midst of moves in the Philippine Senate to abrogate the Philippines-US Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) that governs the terms of the stationing of US military forces in the Philippines “within the framework of the Mutual Defense Agreement.” Under the agreement, the US has pledged to provide military assistance to the Philippines against external threats. The VFA was signed in the 1990s against the backdrop of increasing signs of what Filipino security officials then called “creeping” Chinese territorial expansion in disputed territories in the South China Sea. These recent episodes involving US naval activity, the Philippines’ baselines law and China’s new aggressive gunboat diplomacy have not gone unnoticed in Obama’s Washington. These have acted as a wake-up call to Obama that it is time to retrieve from the backburner the strategic alliance underpinned by the VFA. The VFA facilitates the deployment of US forces on floating bases, though not permanent, to respond to provocative Chinese maneuvers in the South China Sea.

Obama has at last awakened to the need to fall back on the Philippine card to help check rising Chinese economic and naval power in Asia-Pacific. His telephone call to President Arroyo should not be seen as recognition of her legitimacy.

Trash and treasure in the gallery

Long before the business was broken up among his interested sons and moved into the malls, Mario Alcantara maintained the Heritage Art Gallery in an old house on Lantana Street in Quezon City. It is a short street that leads to a dead end, with dilapidated cars from a nearby auto repair shop on the sidewalks. Stray dogs barked at everyone who sought refuge in the gallery.

I used to spend my afternoons in one of the balconies or quiet rooms in this labyrinth that any fire marshal would declare a fire trap. It did burn down eventually, but before that it was a place to see artists come and go: Vicente Manansala and Onib Olmedo held court in the coffee shop and challenged other artists to a game of chess.

There were weekend events in the large ground-floor room, and it was there that I watched all of Kidlat Tahimik’s films, starting with “Mababangong Bangungot” (Perfumed Nightmare). It was there that I sat dumbfounded after a performance of Ionesco’s “Bald Soprano” in Filipino. It was there that I learned about Rizalista cults in the magic mountains of Arayat, Banahaw and Makiling. The speaker was an ex-Carmelite nun who did a PhD dissertation on the group and got converted. I don’t remember much of the theology or philosophy behind it, but she waved around a sheet of bond paper with a drawing of a telephone dial that was supposed to be a hotline to God. Unfortunately, she did not provide us with God’s private number.

Every day after class, I would go to Heritage to do my homework and reading. Then while having merienda, I would watch people go by.

For art collectors in the early 1980s, Heritage was the place to be. There were about 27 rooms in the gallery, filled with paintings for every taste and budget. It was literally trash and treasure mixed together, but if you had a keen eye then, your choices would be worth a lot in today’s market. A small pre-War Fernando

Amorsolo painting could be had for less than P30,000, a watercolor by Juan Luna for P50,000, a mural sized work by Anita Magsaysay Ho for less than P50,000. When I remember the prices then and compare with the astronomical figures set by Christie’s and Sotheby’s for the same works, today I wish I had taken an advance on my inheritance. Prices of the works of modern painters who would later be declared National Artists—H. R. Ocampo, Cesar Legaspi, Vicente Manansala, Arturo Luz, etc.—were affordable then. If you were short of cash, there was a lay-away, zero-interest plan available or sometimes plain barter. Art collecting used to be fun until it turned into the high stakes, speculative, *sosyal* pastime today.

Hovering about in spirit was Lyd Arguilla who owned the house and property where Heritage was. Although she was long dead, Arguilla’s memory sort of lent a connection to her pioneering Philippine Art Gallery.

I reminisce on all this today in the light of the coming Sotheby’s auction of Southeast Asian art in Hong Kong. I want to see how the market holds in these days of worldwide financial crisis.

As a college student on allowance I couldn’t afford great paintings, even if placed on a pay-when-able plan, so I bought what others did not buy: books. Heritage was not confined to paintings, prints and sculptures. It was a place of books, antiques, and other items considered junk by some but treasure by others. Tired old men pushing “kariton” [wooden pushcarts] would drop by in the afternoons and unload sacks of used books on Mario Alcantara, who then had shelves made throughout the house where everything was stacked as they came, without much classification. I chose what



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I wanted and when I asked for the price, Alcantara would say, “Pay what you think is fair.”

I didn’t realize at the time that he was taking note of what I bought. I didn’t realize then that I was sorting the books for him—for free.

Years later, he brought me into one of the closed rooms of the gallery and switched on the lights. There on the shelves was an instant Filipiniana collection for anyone who could pay for it. He then explained that he had told his employ-

ees to find a copy of every book I bought, and through the years he collected a shadow of my library.

One never knew what would come up in a kariton, like a hard-cover, first edition of “Rizal Philippine Nationalist and Martyr” by Austin Coates and published by the Oxford University Press. There was a copy bound in green with Jose Rizal’s monogram stamped on the cover. It cost P500 so I settled for a soft-cover reprint at P30.

When I met Coates and asked him to autograph my book, I asked about the copy I had seen at Heritage. I was surprised to learn that only three copies of the book with the monogram were in existence: the first was kept in file at the Oxford Press, the second copy was in the possession of the author, and the third was presented to Ferdinand Marcos. I rushed to the gallery weeks later, only to be told this rare copy was gone.

There are similar stories of things that got away, stories exchanged by collectors everywhere—collectors of stamps, coins, baseball cards, Coke bottles, and Star Wars dolls. Collecting is a hobby and a compulsion. If only it would remain fun and reasonably priced.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Youngstyle

A visit to Crime and Punishment Museum is a vivid lesson on consequences

By **TRACY GRANT**
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—If there are two things kids know about, it's crime—and punishment.

Crime: The 4-year-old who hurls Legos at his little sister.

Punishment: Time out.

Crime: The 10-year-old who says she studied for that social studies test but didn't.

Punishment: No Jonas Brothers for you.

Crime: The 13-year-old caught texting during a test at school.

Punishment: Computer privileges gone for a month — and that's just the beginning, young man!

Let's face it, trying to figure out the consequences of bad ac-

“Ok, thinking about it like that, it's probably not worth it.” **GOOD DECISION.**

The National Museum of Crime and Punishment, open in Washington for about a year, stands as a sprawling monument to bad decisions made by people in far worse situations. But that's part of the fun. Full of interactive exhibits, the museum follows the history of crime from the high-seas pirates of olden times to computer hackers of today.

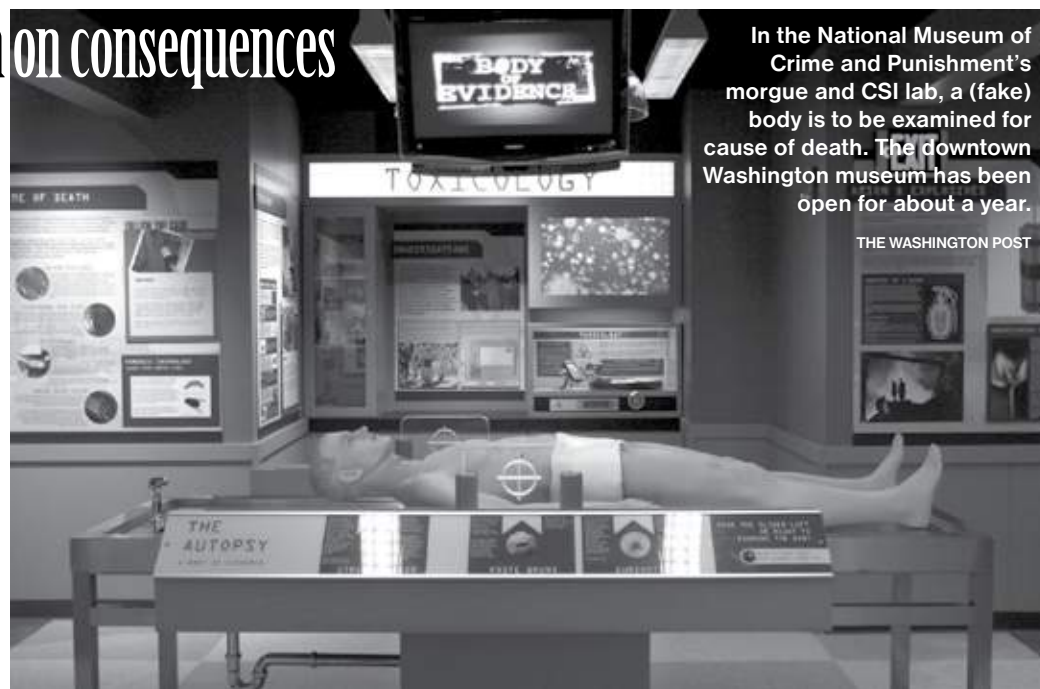
There are opportunities to see the consequences of crime (sit in a jail cell for a while and see if you complain about being sent to your room again), to fight crime and to even solve a

and sad images that make it best for kids age 10 and older who know a little bit about history.

Here are a few favorite spots in the museum:

Check out the guillotine: This machine was used for chopping off criminals' heads in France. It was equipped with a bucket for catching them. (We warned you it wasn't a museum for little kids!)

Can you crack a safe? Don't be too quick as you turn the dial; listen carefully to hear the tumblers fall, indicating you've hit the right number. And whatever you do, don't let your hands shake. This interactive “crime” will have you squealing if you fail.



Details: National Museum of Crime and Punishment

By **TRACY GRANT**
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Where is it? 575 Seventh St. NW in Washington.

What does it cost? Unlike many area museums, this one isn't free. Tickets for adults are \$18; kids ages 5-11 are \$15; kids younger than 5 are free (but it's not really meant for them).

For more information: www.crimemuseum.org or 202-393-1099.

While you're there: Go across the street to the National Portrait Gallery (which IS free). On display is Shepard Fairey's “Hope” poster of Barack Obama. You've seen it on T-shirts, but you may be surprised at how different the original artwork is.



THE WASHINGTON POST

The bullet-riddled car used in the 1967 movie “Bonnie and Clyde,” starring Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway, is part of the National Museum of Crime and Punishment in Washington.

tions is a huge part of what being a kid is all about.

Consider: You really want a piece of that cake Mom just made for the school bake sale, but she said no. So, you run the scenario:

■ “Will I get caught?” Yeah, she's probably going to notice a huge corner chunk missing.

■ “If I'm caught, how mad will she be?” Well, she stayed up till 2 a.m. to make the cake because you forgot to tell her that you had volunteered her, so probably pretty mad.

murder mystery. While the museum has some cool things for little kids to enjoy (an Old West shooting gallery, for example), there are some pretty violent



THE WASHINGTON POST

The guillotine, used to carry out executions in 18th-century France, includes a bucket to catch the lopped-off head. While the National Museum of Crime and Punishment in Washington has some cool things for children to enjoy, it is best for kids age 10 and older who know a little bit about history.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In loving memory of

Monica Cruz Lizama

Better known as Monica Akin Batitang (Leigomwai, Kokang)

Was born on August 29, 1946 and was called to her eternal rest by our Heavenly Father on April 1, 2009

Pre-deceased by:

Sons: †Martin Jose C. Lizama, †Augustin C. Lizama, †Norbert C. Lizama
Parents: †Frederico Taitingfong Cruz & †Antonia Teregeyo Cruz
Parents In-law: †Jose Mendiola Lizama & †Rita Cruz Lizama
Sisters/Brothers-In-laws: †Ana C. Arriola - Vicente, †Mariana C. Guzman - Robert, †Antonio B. Cruz - Rosalia, †Maria B. Cruz, †Manuel Lizama, †Trinida Cepeda, †Maria L. Kaipat
Granddaughter: †Kiara Monica M. Lizama

Survived By:

Husband: Joaquin C. Lizama

Children/Spouses/Grandchildren & Great-grandchildren

Joaquin Jr. Garamet - Frances D. Lizama; Jacquelin Lizama - Chris Castro (Zoe), Jack (Kinisha), Janelle Lizama - Shane Yamada (Shanelle), Joshua, Jeremy, Melisha

Jenidina Leigimwai L. - Joaquin C. Babauta, Jr.; Monique Babauta - Jesse Agulto (Jenidina), Joaquin, Jordan, Jerald

Melva Leiweischang L. - Wayne Perry; Andrew, David, Cyrus, Shekinah

Edwin Alamwat - Vivian M. Lizama; Kimberly

Nardin Pesobwe - Lorenza H. Lizama; Kenneth, Kelsey, Kimo, Keith

Audybert Sebolomwat Lizama - Gernadine DLC. Camacho; Marisa (Chloe), Aunica

Zenaida Leigiram L. - Stanley S. Santos; Martinie, Monishia, Stanley Jr., Princess, Jesus, Shawn, Esperanza

Frederico Bolongai - Jessica DLC. Lizama; Milton, Jayna, Ursula, Jeanille, Jiandra

Claudia Leiascha L. - Anthony Leon Guerrero; Anthony, Vincent, Tindin

Antonia Leimwai L. - Irvin DLC. Songao; Ciprianna, Irvin Jr., McGarret, Isidro

Rita Leischal L. - Anthony Stole; Jesse, Ayanna

Monika Kenya Lizama

Grandchildren: Martin Jr, Lizama - Jackie V. Lizama (Shirley, Giannaline), Raymond Lizama - Lianna Sablan (Rita, Rayanna) Consolacion T. Tereyama (Javan)

Reared Children:

Frances Cruz
Merendie Cruz (Ton)
Genoven C. Tyquiengco (Jose)
Dennis Cruz (Colleen)
Jerome Cruz (Betty)
Dennis Cruz, Jr.
Robin L. Palacios (Gus)
Rosalina A. Cabrera (Norman)
Jose C. Arriola (Winnie)
Raymond Palacios (Susan)

Brothers/Sisters-In-laws:

Ricardo Cruz - Edith
Henrique Cruz - Ana
Candelaria Jose - Daniel
Rufina Duenas - †Jose
Susana Cabrera - Isidro
Jesus Lizama - Tia
Benedicto Lizama - Linsa
Raymond Lizama - Jean
Pedro Lizama
Donicio Camacho - Pat
Merced L. Aguon - Juan
Carmen L. Torres - Jose
Ignacia L. Osada - Hideo
Teresita L. Tyquiengco - †Jesus

Special Friend: Lucia/Abel Barcinas & children

Nightly Rosary is being said at 8:00 p.m. at the family residence in Oleai Village.

On Tuesday, April 07, 2009, her remains will be escorted from CHC Chapel to our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:00 a.m. followed by viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m.

Interment service will follow at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase. Ghilisöow. Thank you for your prayers.

The Family

Youngstyle

From 1 to 44 (and back), she knows her presidents

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

We told you last month about a teen-ager who wrote a song to help her remember the U.S. presidents. That's when we heard about 10-year-old Molly O'Hare.

Molly is a fourth-grader at St. James Catholic School in Falls Church. One day last year, Molly decided she wanted to learn all the presidents. In order. Backward and forward.

And their vice presidents.

And even their pets!

"I don't really know why I learned them. I just wanted to," she said. "I pulled out

books and started memorizing them, just like you memorize anything else."

Ask Molly to name all the presidents, starting with George Washington, and she can get to No. 44, Barack Obama, almost without taking a breath.

"Want me to do it backwards?" she asked, and then went through the list from Obama back in time to Washington.

Here is part of a conversation, with KidsPost asking the questions and Molly answering them.

Q: Who was Number 37?

A: Richard Nixon.

Q: Number 18?

A: Ulysses S. Grant.

Q: Who was his vice president?

A: He actually had two. Schuyler Colfax and Henry Wilson, but they both died while in office.

Q: What's the coolest thing you know about any president?

A: That Andrew Johnson—he was the 17th president—acquired Alaska for \$7.2 million, he had pet mice and he was the first president to be impeached but not convicted.

(Impeachment is the bringing of charges of wrongdoing in the House of Representatives.

The Senate then tries the president; if found guilty, the president is removed from office. Johnson was not convicted at

his trial in 1868. Nor was President Bill Clinton, who in 1998 became the second president to be impeached. In 1974, Richard Nixon became the only president to resign the presidency because he didn't want to be impeached.)

Then KidsPost asked Molly to tell us something about Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th presi-

dent. (Teddy bears were named after him!)

And her answer was a big surprise:

"I am related to his vice president, Charles Fairbanks!" she said.

But, she said, that wasn't the coolest thing about Teddy Roosevelt.

"He had 42 pets, including a

one-legged rooster!"

When Molly isn't talking about the presidents, she likes to read—the book she is reading now is "Puppy Care for Dummies"—and take care of her Louisiana Catahoula Leopard dog.

Molly said she likes school and is a good student. And this probably won't surprise you at all:

"The teacher looks to me a lot in social studies," said the girl who knows all the presidents.

What do colorblind people actually see?

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

For most of you, the world is a feast of color. When you open your eyes, you see a range of hues—hundreds of them.

But some people don't see colors that way. Something gets in the way of their ability to see some colors, and the world looks, well, less colorful.

Take Nathan Cornblatt. He's 12 and a seventh-grader at Georgetown Day School in Washington. Nathan has a hard time telling blue from purple, purple from pink, and dark green from dark red.

Though his friends say Nathan is "colorblind," the term for his condition is "color vision deficiency," meaning he lacks the ability to see some colors as they appear to most people.

Why does this happen? You see color because of specialized cells, or cones, in the part of your eye called the retina. These cells contain chemicals that respond to light that is red,

Color Blindness Fact

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Dogs don't see colors very well, particularly reds and greens.

For more information, visit www.allaboutvision.com, www.preventblindness.org and www.ghr.nlm.nih.gov.

blue and green.

When cones are working properly, the colors blend together into a complete band of color. When the cones don't have the necessary light-sensitive chemicals, a person has difficulty seeing certain colors.

So if Nathan were to look at a yellow-and-green-striped shirt, both colors would appear pretty much the same to him. In fact, in fourth grade, he got in trouble at school once for drawing someone with green hair when it was supposed to be brown. The teacher thought he was being a troublemaker.

"I got sent to the principal," he said. "It was NOT good."

Not everybody with the condition has trouble with the same colors. In very rare cases, almost all that can be seen are neutral colors or shades of gray.

Most people who have color vision deficiency are born with it, and most are boys. (About 8 percent of men are colorblind to some extent, but only one-half of 1 percent of women are.)

Nathan and others with difficulty seeing colors have ways around the problem.

Some people label their clothes and other possessions. And they learn other tricks to help them figure out a color. For example, if they are at a traffic light and the top light is on, they know that means stop, even if they can't see that it is red.

Meanwhile, Nathan said, he has avoided getting in trouble at school again because of mistaking one color for another. And, he said, when he has to draw, he always checks to see what color is written on the crayon wrapper!

Sizing up the Nationals: A few big 'ifs'

By FRED BOWEN

Special to The Washington Post

Bowen is an author of sports novels for kids.



There's an old saying: "If" is the biggest word in sports. "If" will certainly be a big word for the 2009 Washington Nationals, whose regular season opens next week. The Nats had the worst record in the major leagues last year, but they made some changes during the offseason, such as signing home run slugger Adam Dunn. So Washington hopes to be much better this year. But the Nats will improve only if—there's that word again—certain things happen.

The Nats will be better if ...

The starting pitching holds up. The Nats plan to use John Lannan, Scott Olsen and Daniel Cabrera as their top three starters. These guys are not exactly aces, with a combined record of 25 wins and 36 losses in 2008. The Nats will use Shairon Martis and Jordan Zimmermann as their fourth and fifth starters. Martis and Zimmermann have loads of talent, but they're young (both are 22 years old) and have not pitched much in the majors. They probably won't be big winners right away.

Lastings Milledge and Eli-

jah Dukes improve. The Nats' two young outfielders showed flashes of brilliance last season. Milledge hit .268 with 14 home runs and stole 24 bases. Dukes played only half the season because of injuries but still managed to smash 13 home runs with 44 runs batted in. The Nats would love to see these two talented players take the next step to becoming consistent major leaguers. That would give a big boost to the Nats' chances to move up in the National League East Division standings.

Nick Johnson stays healthy. The Nationals' first baseman is a wonderful player. He gets on base about 40 percent of the time, has some power and is a super-slick fielder. But Johnson is always hurt. He missed most of the past two seasons with

leg injuries. He's had only two seasons with 450 or more at-bats since he arrived in the big leagues back in 2001. A healthy Johnson would definitely help the Nationals.

Ryan Zimmerman and Adam Dunn have big years. Zimmerman and Dunn are the Nationals' best players. Zimmerman, who should win a Gold Glove for his acrobatic fielding at third base, hit .283 during a 2008 season in which he was hurt a lot. Dunn, who is 6 feet 6 inches tall and 275 pounds, has slugged at least 40 home runs in each of the past five seasons. The Nationals need their top stars to hit homers and drive in lots of runs.

Baseball has a long season. The Nats have lots of games to play. And lots of ifs.

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE



We the family of the late

†Romeo Cabingas Pagapular

wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our most painful time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayers, comfort, unending support and other considerate acts of kindness did much to calm the ache in our hearts. In time, it will lessen our pain as memories gently turn to smiles.

We would also like to acknowledge the CHC doctors and nurses, Marianas Health Services, Garapan Elementary School admin and faculty members, the clergy, most especially Fr. Ryan and Fr. Manny who Romeo confided too.

Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you.

**Thank You, Maraming Salamat Po and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Cecilia Pagapular, Children and Family**

PUZZLE CARD

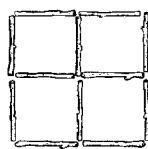


FIG. 1

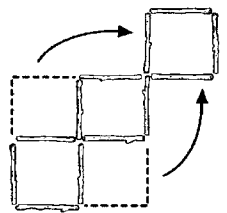


FIG. 2

LAY OUT 12 STICKS, as shown in figure 1, and challenge your friends to move four of them to new positions so that three equal squares will be formed. Figure 2 gives our solution.

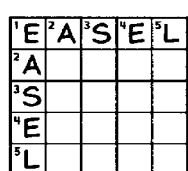
EIGHT DOWN AND TWO TO GO! See if you can figure out what the next two letters are in this series of letters.

A E F H I K L M _ _ ?

Answer: The above eight letters are in alphabetic order and they are all made using straight lines. Therefore, the next two letters should be "N" and "T."

IT TAKES A "PUZZLE ARTIST" TO SOLVE THIS ONE! At right is a word square. Can you find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below? All words used must read the same both across and down.

1. Picture support (given).
2. Ancient Greek marketplace.
3. Individual performances.
4. To wear down.
5. Sci-fi weapon.



Answers: 1. Easel; 2. Agora; 3. Solos; 4. Erode; 5. Laser.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

SEE IF YOU CAN "RISE" TO SOLVE THIS ONE!



BAKE
BALE
BALL
BOLL
ROLL

In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed BAKE to ROLL in four moves. See if you can change the following five words in four moves.

1. JUNK to PILE
2. PASS to BUCK
3. MOAT to WALL
4. COLD to FEET
5. RANK to FILE

Answers:
1. JUNK, PUNK, PINK, PINE, FILE.
2. PASS, BASS, BASK, BACK, BUCK.
3. MOAT, MOLT, MALT, MALL, WALL.
4. COLD, COLT, FELT, FEET.
5. RANK, RINK, FINK, FINE, FILE.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ President Abraham Lincoln's widow, Mary Todd Lincoln, did not attend her husband's funeral.

■ It was Nobel Prize-winning French poet, journalist and novelist Anatole France who gave the following sage advice: "Never lend books -- nobody ever returns them; the only books I have in my library are those which people have lent me."

■ Have you ever had your IQ tested? If not, I'm sure you've wondered how your intelligence would rate on that well-known scale. Famed theoretical physicist Albert Einstein had an IQ of 160. The highest recorded IQ is 210, with those brains belonging to a Korean named Kim Ung-Yong.

■ There are so many Swedes and people of Swedish descent in Minnesota that the Scandinavian country created a holiday for them: Sweden celebrates Minnesota Day every Aug. 12.

■ There are 147,000 identified species of moth.

■ If you're visiting San Luis Obispo County in California and want to check out a book at the local library, you'd better be sure to take a shower first. It's legal there for library officials to kick out anyone who is deemed to have offensive body odor.

■ American bank robber Pretty Boy Floyd got his start in crime early, robbing a grocery store at the tender age of 14.

■ In the Eastern European country of Belarus, the names of the months can be quite descriptive. Their word for February, for example, means "angry month," April is "beautiful month," June is "red month," September is "blooming month" (which seems odd, since most things bloom in the spring), October is "fires month" and November is "falling leaves month."

Thought for the Day: "Electricity is actually made up of extremely tiny particles called electrons, that you cannot see with the naked eye unless you have been drinking."—Dave Barry

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MAGIC MAZE • WORDS WITH SKIN

H Y G D A X V S Q N K I F D A
X V N T S Q G O M J H P N F C
A Y W N K N U R P N L I J H F
D B Z X I V M D B S K G T R Q
O M K K N K A A A S I S R H D
F D S B F Z S Y E E W K E V E
T A R Q L K K N O L H I N N N
T L K I I H I F O N D N N C N
A Z X N N W N G N I K S I R I
W V G U T S G R Q K N O K K K
N M K K N I K S I S J O S I S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions -- forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Baskin Pigskin Skinhead Skinner
Basking Risking Skink Tasking
Masking Siskin Skinless Wineskin
Onionskin Skinflint Skinned

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★ ★ ★

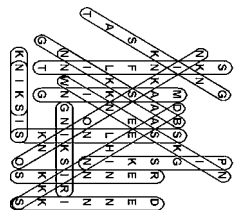
★ Moderate ★ ★ Difficult
★ ★ ★ GO FIGURE!

	+		÷		7
x		-		x	
	-		x		24
-		x		+	
	x		-		20
11		24		23	

1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



WORDS WITH SKIN

GO FIGURE ANSWER

23	24	11
20	7	9
	3	x
+		-
24	8	1
x		-
7	2	9
÷	+	5

Fleas, fleas, everywhere

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: The weather is turning warm again, and once more I have to deal with fleas crawling all over my two cats. Is there any way I can get rid of them?—Clara in Valdosta, Ga.

DEAR CLARA: Dealing with fleas, especially in warm, humid areas like the Southeast, is very difficult. It's nearly impossible to completely eradicate them, but you can lessen their impact in a couple of ways.

Tackle the problem before it starts. As the weather warms up, fleas become more active, and their eggs begin to hatch as well. Late winter and early spring are prime time for starting the flea battle. This means a thorough spring cleaning of your home, and treatment of your cats.

Send the cats to your vet or a grooming/boarding service for an overnight stay while you clean. While they're there, have them bathed and groomed and treated for fleas. Even if they showed no signs of infestation during the winter, eggs could still be embedded deep in their coats.

Next, while they're gone, clean the entire house—top to bottom. This means moving the furniture and cleaning underneath it, as well as taking down all linens and curtains and washing them. Treat the carpets and upholstery with a nontoxic flea stopper (available at pet stores). Vacuum thoroughly and discard the vacuum cleaner



bag once you're done.

Throughout the remainder of the warm months—well into October—you will need to maintain a regular flea-prevention schedule. Your cats must be treated for fleas regularly with a treatment recommended by your veterinarian; don't let this lapse. If the cats spend time outside, you must brush them each time they come in to dislodge anything that attached to their coats. Vacuum the carpets and furniture at least once a week, and wash all linens regularly so fleas don't settle in and lay their eggs.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Write a tale about your family pet

A family pet can be a parent's best friend. It helps teach kids responsibility, brings focus to the family and can be a catalyst for memorable adventures and stories that unfold in the reciprocal human-animal bond that develops.

No wonder I've been riveted by the new book "Saved: Rescued Animals and the Lives They Transform" by award-winning journalist Karin Winegar (www.dacapopress.com). In her descriptive writing style, Winegar tells 28 stories of how animals have enriched the lives of the people who rescued them. With broad appeal for all ages, the heart and soul of the book comes out of her childhood love of animals.

Believing that rescuing and helping are a natural impulse, she relates that she had a salamander hospital and rescued baby birds, snakes and frogs. "I spent more time on the floor with various dachshunds than with people," she said. "I knew the geography of their inner ears, the topography of their hide, their voices and moods better than I knew my backyard."

As for her love of writing about animals, "the most natural thing in the world for kids to write about is their pet," she says. Here are some of her writing tips for young animal fans in your home:

1. Encourage your children to describe their cat or dog, ferret, fish, rabbit or bird. Say: Tell me about his eyes. How does his nose look? Can you describe his fur? What about his tail?

2. Just like people, animals have a history. Trigger memories with questions such as: Where did we get our cat?

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

Do you remember when he was born, when we went to the Humane Society or Grandpa's farm and got him? Was he little, big, smelly? What did he eat? Some kids might want to be like reporters and stick to facts, while others might want to create fiction. Either way is fun.



3. Young girls in particular dream of horses or ponies, and enjoy creating a fantasy story. Prompt them with questions such as: What breed is it? What does it live, and how do you feed it? Where do you ride? Do you ride with anyone else?

"The grandkids are coming!" tip: If your grandchildren are

too young to write, encourage them to draw a picture of their favorite pet. They'll be following a tradition of our early ancestors, who drew animals on walls of caves 30,000 years ago!

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

(c) 2009 Donna Erickson
Distributed by King Features Synd.

Life & Style

Madonna visit sheds light on Malawi's poverty

KUMBALI, Malawi (AP)—"Madonna, Madonna!" the bare-foot boys in tattered T-shirts call out. Until recently, the pop star's name meant little in a country that didn't even have TV until a decade ago.

Even now, all these boys know is that a rich white woman ensconced in a nearby luxury lodge is the cause of the hubbub near their village.

This is Madonna's third trip to Malawi since 2006, when she started a charity to help the country's poor and orphaned children—one of whom she later adopted. On Friday, a judge is expected to give her the green light to adopt a second Malawian child, 4-year-old Chifundo

In a Saturday March 28, 2009, photo, children play around a water course by a road bridge in the small village of Kumbali, on the outskirts of Lilongwe, Malawi, where pop star Madonna stayed last time she came to Malawi to adopt David Banda.

AP



"Mercy" James.

Critics have accused the singer of using her fame and fortune to fast-track the adoption and say the little girl would be better off raised by her extended family. Madonna has maintained she is following standard procedure, and on Thursday she received the endorsement of a top government minister.

Over the past week, Madonna and her entourage have traveled in three SUVs, drawing large crowds during visits to a day care facility funded by her charity and to an orphanage where her 3-year-old adopted son, David, once lived.

International photographers and television crews have set

up daily stakeouts along the road to Kumbali Lodge, where Madonna has been staying in an oasis of charming chalets situated on a cattle and horse ranch not far from the capital—and just a stone's throw from a scruffy village of the same name.

Sometimes the paparazzi wait under shady acacia trees bursting with yellow blooms near the Presidential Palace before security guards move them on. Mostly, though, it's long hours spent on a dusty dirt road, watching village life go by.

Then, at the first sign of the star's convoy, doors slam shut, engines rev and the chase begins.

Just published photos show MLK killing aftermath

ATLANTA (AP)—Almost 41 years to the day after the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, newly published photographs of the aftermath of his shooting at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., are on a magazine's Web site.

About a dozen black-and-white pictures published on <http://www.life.com> Thursday include scenes of King's associates meeting solemnly in the civil rights leader's motel room, standing on the balcony where he stood for the last time, and workers cleaning the last of the blood.

They were taken April 4, 1968, by Life magazine photographer Henry Groskinsky, who was on assignment in Alabama with writ-

er Mike Silva when they learned that King had been shot in Memphis and rushed to the scene.

To their surprise, they had access not just to the motel but to King's room.

"I was very discreet. I shot just enough to document what was going on. I didn't want to make a nuisance of myself," the 75-year-old Groskinsky said in the caption to a photo showing a group of King's associates, including Andrew Young and the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, assembled inside the room.

"It's very somber, and there I am with a flash camera. So I took a couple of pictures and just kind of backed off," Groskinsky said.

There was no explanation on

the Web site of why the photographs have not been published before now. A phone number for Groskinsky could not be obtained to reach him for comment Thursday night. Attempts to reach representatives from Time & Life and Getty Images were unsuccessful.

King was in Memphis to support black sanitary workers who had been on strike. The day before he was killed, King delivered his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" address in which he said, "I have seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. And I'm happy, tonight."

Clarkson revels in title as indie-film royalty

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Patricia Clarkson has a regal bearing to match the aristocratic nickname she has gained in the movie business: queen of independent film.

"People have given me that title, have bestowed that title on me. I'm honored," Clarkson said in an interview Thursday before accepting an independent acting award from ShoWest, an annual convention for theater owners. "The independent film community is a powerful community, and if somebody wants to say I'm queen of it, I'm lucky. Very lucky."

Clarkson's latest film is "Whatever Works," her second straight movie with Woody Allen after last year's "Vicky Cristina Barcelona." Screening Thursday at ShoWest, "Whatever Works" stars Larry David as a New Yorker whose change in lifestyle throws him in with a Southern family, including Clarkson.

Late this year, Clarkson, 49, has the lead in the independent romance "Cairo Time," playing a woman in a brief encounter with an Egyptian man (Alexander Siddig). She also co-stars in "Shutter Island," the latest collaboration between Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio, though Clarkson is coy about her role.

"I can't really tell you a lot about my character because it's kind of a surprise," Clarkson said. "Leonardo DiCaprio encounters me in the film in a cave. I'm the lady in the cave."

An Academy Award nominee for 2003's "Pieces of April," Clarkson has appeared in such independent pictures as "The Station Agent," "Lars and the Real Girl," "High Art," "All the Real Girls" and "Far From Heaven." Clarkson won two Emmys for a recurring role on "Six Feet Under."



AP
Actress Patricia Clarkson poses for a portrait backstage during the final day of ShoWest 2009, Thursday, April 2, 2009, in Las Vegas.

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Fast & Furious

Friday	4:25	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20
Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:20	

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

When a crime brings them back to L.A., fugitive ex-con Dom Toretto reignites his feud with agent Brian O'Conner. But as they are forced to confront a shared enemy, Dom and Brian must give in to an uncertain new trust if they hope to outmaneuver him. And from convoy heists to precision tunnel crawls across international lines, two men will find the best way to get revenge: push the limits of what's possible behind the wheel.



Monsters vs. Aliens

Friday	4:05	7:00	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:00
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:00
Mon thru Thurs	4:05	7:00	

Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie
Action, Comedy, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis

When a space capsule crash lands onto Susan Reynolds' car she's doused by its alien liquid contents, Quantonium which turn her into a 48 foot 11 inch giant. Her wedding thwarted, she's captured by the military and sent to a secret government facility, where she meets fellow monsters Dr. Cockroach, Ph.D., the gelatinous BOB, The Missing Link, and Insectosaurus.



The Haunting in Connecticut

Friday	4:20	7:25	9:45
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:25
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:25
Mon thru Thurs	4:20	7:25	

Virginia Madsen, Brooklyn Proulx
Thriller, Supernatural • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

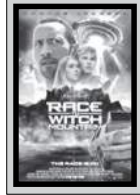
Based on a true story of one family's terrifying, real-life encounter with the dark forces of the supernatural. When the Campbell family moves to upstate Connecticut, they soon learn that their charming Victorian home has a disturbing history. Not only was the house a transformed funeral parlor where inconceivable acts occurred, but the owner's clairvoyant son Jonah served as a demonic messenger, providing a gateway for spiritual entities to crossover.



Knowing

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:10
Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:10	

Nicolas Cage, Rose Byrne
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13



Race To Witch Mountain

Friday	4:15	7:30	9:40
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30
Mon thru Thurs	4:15	7:30	

Dwayne Johnson, Ciarán Hinds
Action, Adventure • Rated PG



The Last House On The Left

Friday	4:30	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:15
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:15
Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:15	

Garret Dillahunt, Rhys Corio
Horror • Rated R



Watchmen

Friday	4:00	7:05	10:15
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:05
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:05
Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:05	

Malin Akerman, Billy Crudup
Action, Adventure • Rated R

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Clay Aiken called a 'spectacular father'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Music producer David Foster sees nothing strange about his sister Jaymes having a baby with Clay Aiken. David Foster told AP Radio "She's very close with Clay, they're best friends. It made perfect sense to me that he'd want to have a child with his best friend."



Aiken

Jaymes Foster gave birth to Parker Foster Aiken last August, conceived by

in-vitro fertilization. Her brother considers it "a very normal situation."

David Foster finds Aiken to be a "spectacular father" and Jaymes "a natural mother."

He says Jaymes, also a music producer, "always wanted a child, so it kind of worked out."

He doesn't know what their plans are for raising the baby. "They're working it out. I don't know quite how. It's a bicoastal thing."

David Foster, who has worked with the likes of Barbra Streisand and Celine Dion, writes about his sister's relationship with Aiken in his autobiography, "Hitmaker."

Obama's half sister to write children's book



AP

In this Dec. 11, 2008 file photo, Maya Soetoro-Ng, center, half-sister of President Barack Obama, during a reception for the Honolulu marathon in Waikiki, Hawaii.

NEW YORK (AP)—President Obama's half-sister has a book deal, for a children's picture story.

Maya Soetoro-Ng's "Ladder to the Moon," based in part on Obama's mother and other family members, will be published by Candlewick Press at a date not yet determined. According to Candlewick, Soetoro-Ng will pay "homage to her mother's tradition of storytelling."

The late Ann Dunham is mother both to Obama and Soetoro-Ng, who was born in 1970, nine years after the future president. (Obama and Soetoro-Ng have different fathers). Soetoro-Ng, who teaches at an all-girls school in Honolulu, campaigned for her half brother and spoke at last year's Democratic National Convention.

Megan Joy flaps her way off 'American Idol'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Megan Joy says she was just being goofy and showing her love of birds when she flapped her way across the "American Idol" stage. "I love birds and bird noises," said Joy, who was eliminated from the TV show Wednesday. "I just decided that if I'm goin' out, I'm goin' out with a bang and I'm just going to be myself. So I... flew the whole time."

Joy created the most bizarre moment of the night—if not the season—with her flapping and squawking.

She told a teleconference on Thursday that fellow low-ranking contestants Anoop Desai and Allison Iraheta had promised to make bird-like sounds for her if she were voted off.

"I'm always just making noises and animal noises and they were like, 'Meg, if you go tonight, we're going to caw for you and support you.' So I was like, 'Don't you forget to caw, Anoop.'"

The tattooed, 23-year-old single mother from Sandy, Utah, said that she plans to add to her body art with an ink version of the good luck ring she wore for the singing contest.

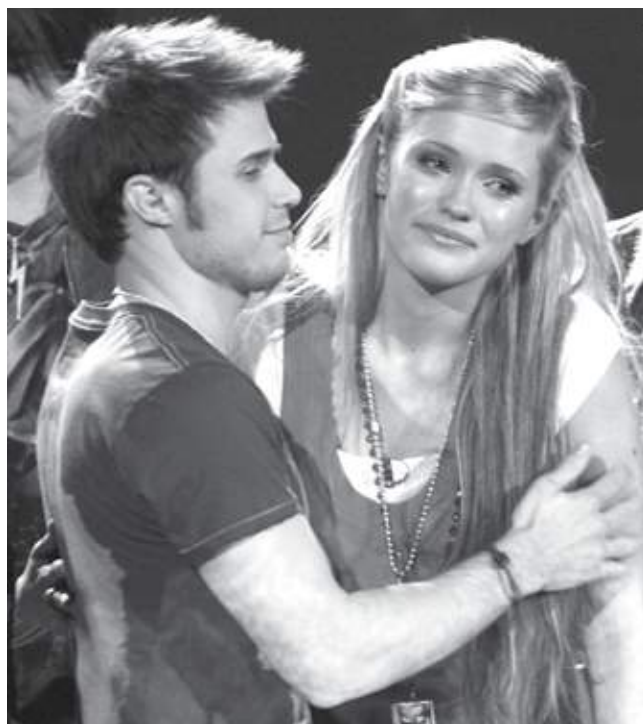
Joy received the fewest number of viewer votes for her version of Bob Marley's "Turn Your Lights Down Low." Eight finalists remain in the competition.

She said she has no regrets and figured she would be eliminated this week. In the

future, she'd consider doing voice work and whatever life throws her way. But for now, Joy is itching to spend time with her toddler son, Ryder.

"As sad as I am that I'm

leaving and I'm done with the show, there is a very big part of me that cannot wait to see my son," she said. "And it's been too long. I'm ready to hold him in my arms again."



AP

In this image released by Fox, Megan Joy, right, is embraced by Kris Allen after she was eliminated on the singing competition series, "American Idol," Wednesday, April 1, 2009 in Los Angeles.

Hollywood Wax Museum set to auction 200 wax celebs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Want to permanently share your home with James Dean, Marilyn Monroe or all four Beatles?

The Hollywood Wax Museum is offering wax representations of these and nearly 200 other celebrities at the first auction in its 44-year history, set for May 1.

Fans can bid on political figures, such as George Washington and Bill Clinton, and

athletes like Tiger Woods and Michael Jordan. Musicians such as Cher, Stevie Wonder and the Fab Four will be available, along with TV and film stars including Lucille Ball, Johnny Carson, Will Smith and Charlie Chaplin.

The auction will be administered by Profiles in History and a portion of the profits will support efforts to preserve Hollywood's historic Walk of Fame.



In this image released by Profiles in History, a wax figure of actress Marilyn Monroe is shown.

AP

Troubled youngster bothered by lack of trust in parents

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am an 11-year-old with a serious problem. I don't trust my parents. I doubt I ever will. I just can't tell them things. I end up praying to my dead grandpa—that's OK, but he doesn't give me any answers.

I trust my sister more than I could ever trust Mom or Dad. It feels wrong sometimes. I don't like to be around people. I have no way of knowing whether I can trust them. There is part of my life that only my sister knows about.

I feel bad about not trusting my parents. Is there any solution to this problem? Should I talk to them about it?

NO TRUST IN PLANO, TEXAS

DEAR NO TRUST: I am concerned for you, and I hope you will take what I say seriously. Your parents brought you into this world and are there to protect you. Confiding in your sister is a good thing, but if you are in trouble—and I suspect you may be—she may not be experienced enough to give you the guidance you need.

If you want things to get better, it is very important that you tell your parents or some other adult who is close to you—a relative or school counselor—what has caused you to lose trust in people. That in itself will be a giant first step in solving your problem because you need more help than you can get in a letter.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I was recently given a gift that I have reason to believe was made from stolen materials, on company premises, using stolen time. The item is of a religious nature, although the business itself is in the field of manufacturing.

The person who gave me the gift is aware that I value integrity and honesty above all things. I wonder if he is trying to challenge my principles.

At any rate, I'm at a loss as to what to do with the gift. I do not feel comfortable keeping it, but for reasons of family harmony cannot return it. Any suggestions?

ROLE MODEL IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR ROLE MODEL: In a non-confrontational way, ask the person who gave you the gift how it was made or acquired. Then, if you feel you have accepted stolen property, return it to the giver and explain why. By doing so you will demonstrate that you don't give in to temptation when presented with an ethical challenge, and it may be an important lesson to someone who may need to hear it.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My older brother moved from the East Coast to Wyoming 20 years ago, which put him in a different time zone—two hours behind me. He died in June of last year.

I am planning to get a tattoo memorializing the date and time of my brother's passing, but have reached a dilemma. My brother died June 12 at 11 p.m. in Wyoming, but it was 1 a.m. June 13 here in Connecticut.

Which date should I use? I have asked friends who say I should go with what feels right to me, but others have told me to use the date on his death certificate. Which is correct?

DAY LATE AND TWO HOURS SHORT

DEAR DAY LATE: The date on your brother's death certificate. However, tattoos are very personal, and if you choose to use the time and date in Connecticut of his passing, no one should criticize you for it.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

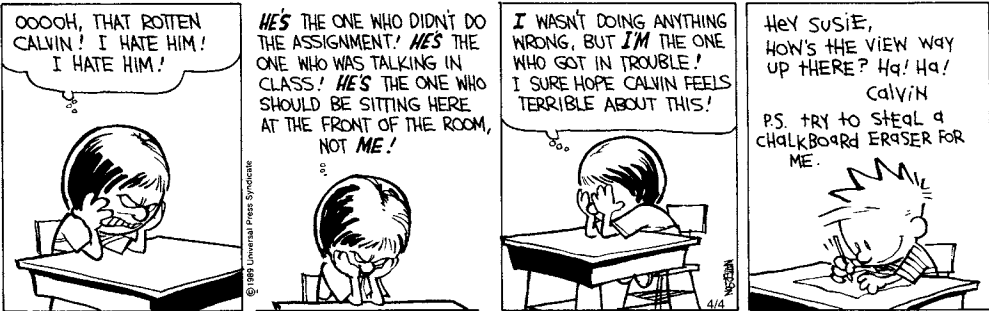
For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

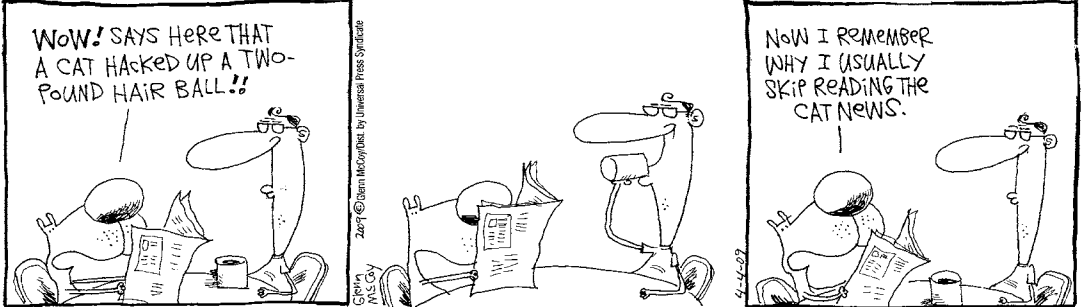
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

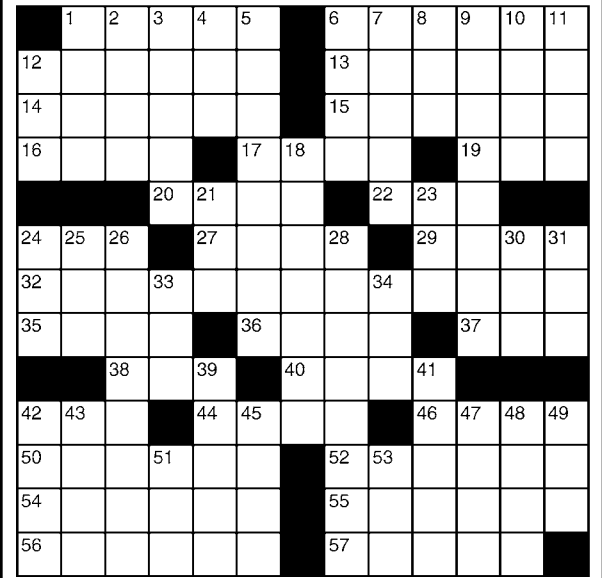
ACROSS 1 Core 6 Cavalry weapons 12 "South Pacific" role 13 Talisman 14 Square-muzzled primate 15 Cure 16 Family 17 "Wheel of Fortune" option 19 "Friends" cast member 20 Be slack-jawed 22 Banned bug spray 24 Balloon fill 27 Peruse 29 Approximately 32 Robert Wagner TV series 35 Paraphernalia 36 Knighted woman

DOWN 37 Witch's familiar, usually 38 Just out 40 Zilch, in Xochimilco 42 Become one 44 — and crafts 46 Timber wolf 50 Palin's bailiwick 52 Pent (up) 54 Lower the lights 55 Release 56 Conclusion 57 Elite Navy group

Solution time: 27 mins.

OFF L I E D M O A N
L E U I D L E A B L E
D R J E K Y L L J I L T
S N I V E L U F O
I L L D R R U T H
S P A C Y H E Y S E A
L U S T B E D L E S S
E R A T U X G I R T H
D R P H I L J O S
E E L E C Z E M A
S P A R D R W A T S O N
H A L O O Y E R P R O
E D E N G E L T Y E N

Yesterday's answer 4-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jamie Lynn Spears, 18; David Blaine, 36; Robert Downey Jr., 44; Craig T. Nelson, 65

Happy Birthday: Your outgoing personality, charisma and high energetic approach will help you drum up the support you require to get your way. You will set standards and teach others how to enjoy more and accomplish at the same time. You will be the motivator and the driving force for success. Your numbers are 2, 6, 15, 19, 26, 42, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put your problems behind you and enjoy time with friends or get involved in a project. A change at home will have you rethinking where you want to live and the lifestyle you want to pursue. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let anyone get wind of what you are up to before you have your plans in place. Instant gratification will be yours if you move quickly and take any competition you have by surprise. Your choices will probably upset someone initially. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone may try to take advantage of you, so listen carefully. You have to be a part of whatever is going on around you if you want to keep things moving along smoothly. Speak from the heart. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotional issues will take center stage, giving rise to things you may not want to deal with. If you ignore what's going on, you can never sort through the mess. Be a little bit pushy and you

can come out on top. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make some substantial improvements to a relationship if you talk convincingly about what your dreams, hopes and wishes are for the future. Now is a great time to make personal plans and to find out exactly where you stand. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't doubt your own abilities. Invest in something you do well and forget about helping someone else get ahead. If you negotiate well, you can satisfy yourself and the people you are dealing with. Money can be made. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Chat about one of your ideas while networking or socializing. Before you know it, you'll have plenty of help getting things done. Approaching the people who can complement your plans will move you forward with confidence. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your emotions may cause you to misinterpret what's actually being said. Don't overreact. Things are not as bad as you think and, with patience and a little guidance from a loved one, things can be worked out positively. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Expect to come into money, have one of your investments pay off or have something returned that you thought was gone forever. With love and your charm, you will be able to coax anyone you care for to join in the plans you have. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You have to let everyone know where you

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY
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stand if you want to keep things moving along. If you force your will on others, expect to face opposition. Be smart and it will turn into a winning situation. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put thoughts down on paper and you will come up with a plan that will put your skills to work. Consider joining a group project you feel strongly about and you will hook up with someone who can help you get over some of your fears or bad habits. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can make some important connections. A creative job you want to get off the ground will interest someone who can contribute in surprising ways. Don't let a negative friend or lover discourage you. *****

Birthday Baby: You are playful, caring and a strong contender no matter what you take part in. You are aggressive, strong, sensitive and a born leader.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 4/04

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER Solution: 8 letters

W M H C E E P S Y T R E V O P
R A O T S I L A N R U O J S E
I S S R A W A H O L Y E Y Y D
T S P H A Y C S S P C C C I I
E A I U I L E C T I H I A R S
R C T W D N L I V I L S E I N
M H A A E O G H A O M B U M I
O U L L M E C T P L M E U B Y
N S E T O N R E O E E L S P G
D E X E E I E O M N O N Y P E
A T O R S Z G I T C A L A U T
L T F T Z A U B D G K P G P A
E S S A Y G L E A E E R A R R
A D R A W A E E R A E X I T
D S R E I M R W R I S S U E S

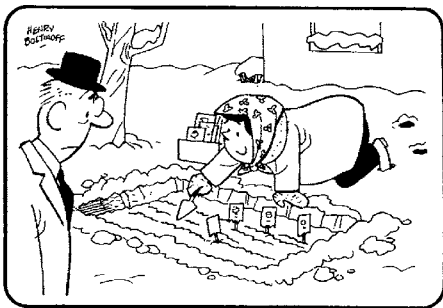
© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 4/4

Argue, Award, Bioethics, Bush, Column, Essay, Exit, Fox, French, Holy, Hospital, Ideas, Inside, Issues, Journalist, Lead, Magazine, Massachusetts, Media, Member, Miers, Mondale, Notes, Only, Panel, Paper, Place, Policy, Poverty, Psychiatrist, Publish, Rare, Reagan, Regular, Said, Speech, Strategy, Times, Vice, Walter, Wars, Washington, Weekly, Writer

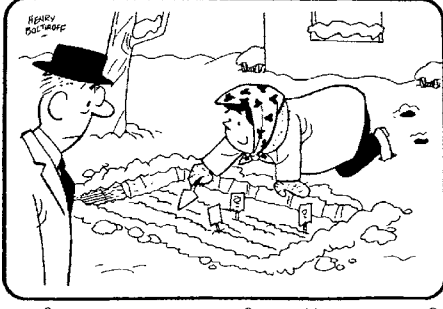
Yesterday's Answer: Audiences

We listened to your request: TREASURY is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 26 x 26 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for \$18.95 each plus \$3.25 p&h (\$14.20 total each). U.S. funds only for the first volume, \$1.50 p&h for each additional volume. To Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-442-6486. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Kerchief is different. 2. Man's hat is missing. 3. Seed packet is missing. 4. Bush has been added on the right. 5. Box of supplies is gone. 6. Tree limb is larger.

Wishing Well®

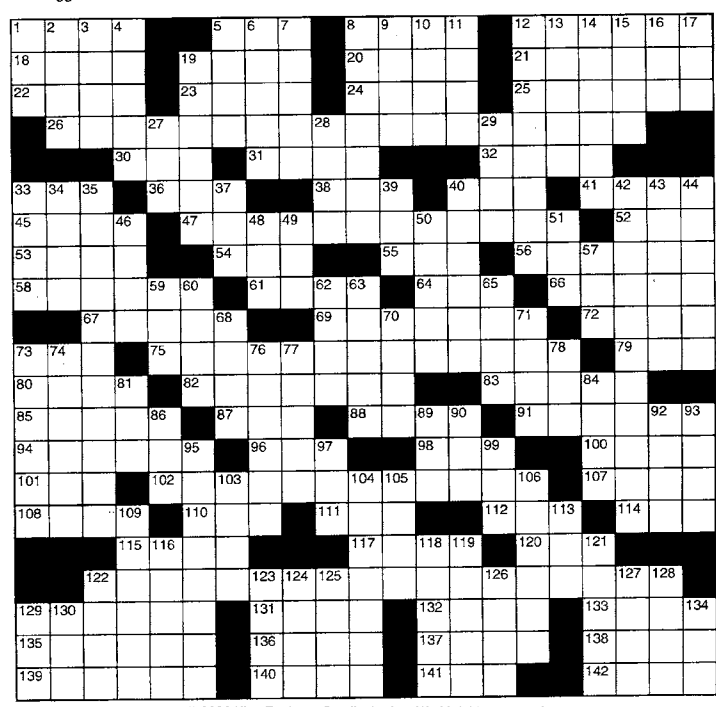
5	3	7	2	4	8	3	2	3	6	4	5	6
M	F	A	A	E	M	A	C	M	E	V	A	V
2	5	4	7	8	6	2	5	8	2	6	7	3
C	K	O	G	A	E	E	E	K	P	N	R	I
4	3	5	2	6	7	5	7	6	3	5	8	4
L	L	C	T	T	I	H	N	F	Y	A	E	V
8	2	8	3	4	8	3	8	6	8	3	5	4
S	Y	O	H	I	M	A	E	U	O	R	N	N
5	2	4	8	3	8	2	4	2	7	4	6	2
G	O	G	N	M	E	U	S	R	T	U	L	L
5	8	6	7	8	6	3	2	4	5	7	2	4
E	H	W	O	A	E	O	I	C	S	D	F	C
6	7	2	8	4	6	4	8	7	3	8	3	4
E	A	E	P	E	K	S	P	Y	N	Y	Y	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword DOG DAZE

- ACROSS
- 1 Gung-ho
 - 5 Petite pooch
 - 8 Curly coif
 - 12 Easter essential
 - 18 Actress Merrill
 - 19 Crooner Perry
 - 20 Harness part
 - 21 Llama kin
 - 22 Faction
 - 23 Pin part
 - 24 Swimmer Biondi
 - 25 Alpine event
 - 26 Canine movie?
 - 30 Augsburg article
 - 31 Jai —
 - 32 Sup in style
 - 33 Tiffany treasure
 - 36 Failure
 - 38 Roth —
 - 40 An Everly brother
 - 41 Identical
 - 45 Colleague of Yves and Christian
 - 47 Canine comic strip?
 - 52 Kyser or Starr
 - 53 Gumbo veggie
 - 54 "— generis"
 - 55 Road curve
 - 56 "Ticket —" ('65 hit)
 - 58 Gadget
 - 61 It may be square
 - 64 Elsie's chew
 - 66 Platinum or potassium
 - 67 Picnic area
 - 69 Connection
 - 72 Celebrity
 - 73 Act human
 - 75 Canine football player?
 - 79 TV's "You — Your Life"
 - 80 Trusting sort
 - 82 Break
 - 83 Trencher-man
 - 85 Certain prisoner
 - 87 Recede
 - 88 Medieval menial
 - 91 Polish a manuscript
 - 94 Batman's butler
 - 96 Brit. lexicon
 - 98 NASA affirmative
 - 100 Brad, for one
 - 101 Co. kingpin
 - 102 Canine aircraft?
 - 107 Dancer Pavlova
 - 108 — May Oliver
 - 110 Nonclerical
 - 111 Plead
 - 112 Spitz sound
 - 114 Hamilton bill
 - 115 Pluck
 - 117 Besides
 - 120 Pirate's quaff
 - 122 Canine fairy tale?
 - 129 Captivated today
 - 131 Christiania, today
 - 132 List ender
 - 133 Set of threads
 - 135 Fuel choice
 - 136 "Elephant Boy" actor
 - 137 Depend (on)
 - 138 "La Douce"
 - 139 Blab
 - 140 Alan of "Laugh-In"
 - 141 Pro-gun grp.
 - 142 Astrology term
 - 1 Cornhusker city
 - 7 Runway figure
 - 8 Wardrobe
 - 9 Dread
 - 10 "Puttin' on the —" ('29 song)
 - 11 Aware of
 - 12 Nursery item
 - 13 Edgar — Poe
 - 14 Shows mercy
 - 15 Cabbage cousin
 - 16 Author Umberto
 - 17 Flat hat
 - 19 Imp's opposite
 - 27 Chianti color
 - 28 — out (help)
 - 29 Superstar
 - 33 Buck's "Earth —"
 - 34 Actress Sommer
 - 35 Canine TV personality?
 - 37 — Peres, M.O.
 - 39 Justice Fortas
 - 40 Toy fate
 - 42 Canine singer?
 - 43 Wayland Flowers puppet
 - 44 A hole near the sole
 - 46 Author Sheehy
 - 48 Great bird?
 - 49 Cotton —
 - 50 Computer acronym
 - 51 — Kippur
 - 57 Ring
 - 59 Cornfield cry
 - 60 Correct a text
 - 62 Pat on the buns?
 - 63 Colosseum completer
 - 65 Took the plunge
 - 68 Adams or McClurg
 - 70 "Vissi d' —" ("Tosca" aria)
 - 71 Around the corner
 - 73 Intertwine
 - 74 Inveighed (against)
 - 76 Personify
 - 77 Defy a dictator
 - 78 Hwy.
 - 81 — de-lance
 - 84 Sicilian smoker
 - 86 Agt.
 - 89 Meadow male
 - 90 Dandy
 - 92 Year
 - 93 Cavalry characteristic
 - 95 Murphy role
 - 97 Society miss
 - 99 Essential
 - 103 Solemn statement
 - 104 Envious
 - 105 Citrus fruit
 - 106 Once in a blue moon
 - 109 Horrified
 - 113 Basenji
 - 116 Drive off
 - 118 Draconian
 - 119 Furry fisherman
 - 121 Rap or rock
 - 122 Tare's relative
 - 123 Supreme leader?
 - 124 Jacob's twin
 - 125 Czech river
 - 126 Tra —
 - 127 Spiritual guide
 - 128 Jazzman
 - 129 CT hours
 - 130 Long or Peeples
 - 134 Eavesdrop electronically



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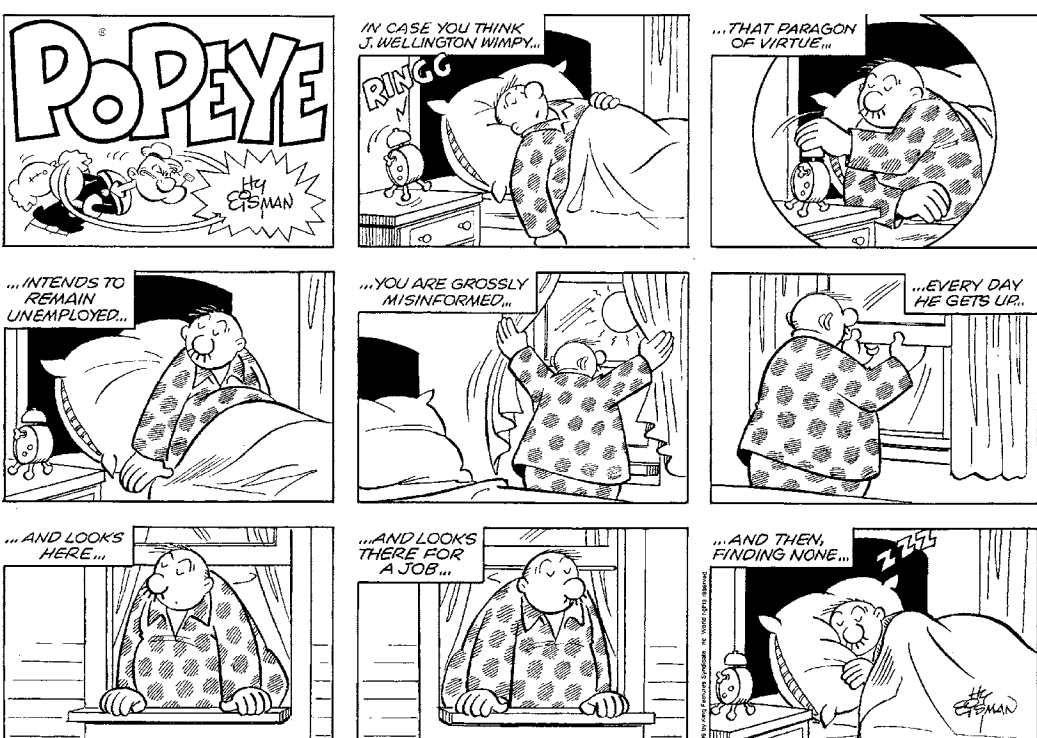
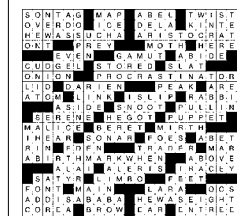
Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "chrono" mean?
- PHILOSOPHY: What was the nationality of the physician and philosopher Avicenna, who greatly influenced medieval thought?
- LITERATURE: Which Southern author wrote "The Optimist's Daughter"?
- SCIENCE: Who developed the Uncertainty Principle in quantum physics?
- ASTRONOMY: How many days does it take for the planet Mercury to orbit the Sun?
- CARTOONS: What was the first name of the nearsighted Mr. Magoo?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What does a misologist oppose?
- PUBLISHING: In what year did the magazine National Lampoon launch?
- GEOGRAPHY: What was the Spanish Main?
- MOVIES: Which silent movie actress was known as "The Vamp"?

- Time
- Persian
- Eudora Welby
- Werner Heisenberg
- 88 days
- Quincy
- Reason or enlightenment
- 1970
- The Caribbean Sea, islands and surrounding coastline of the North, Central and South Americas
- Theda Bara

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Saturday's Answers



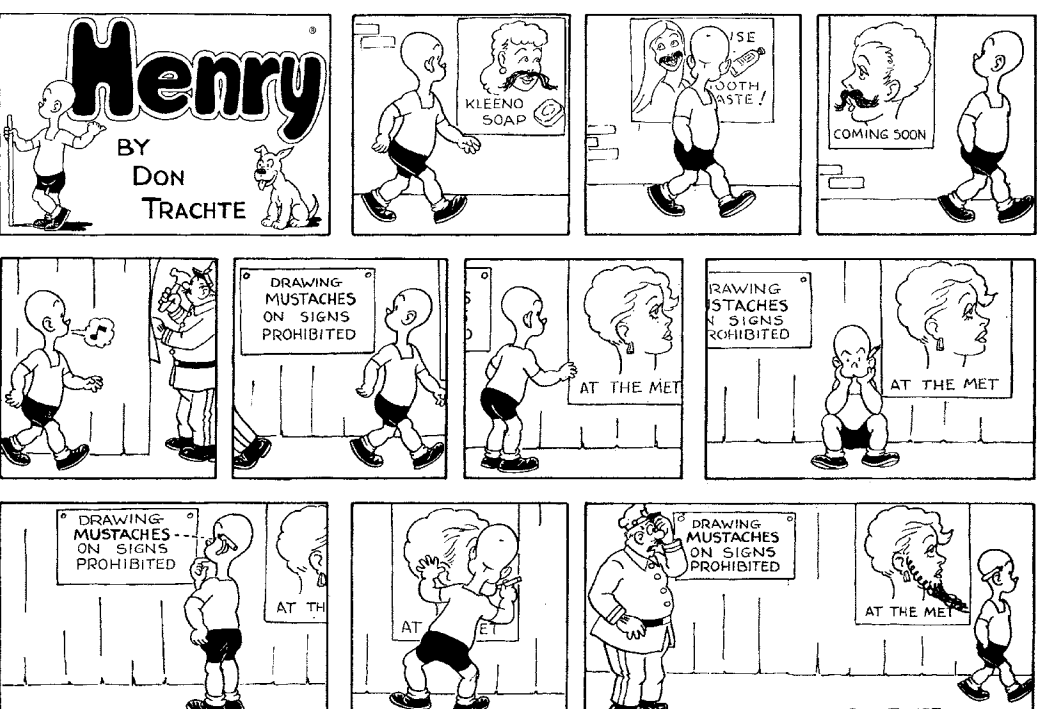
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

House for rent OR lease

2 storey, 2,545 sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, large rooms, fenced yard, private, nice view. Big terraces & porch. Back up generator, watertank, washer/dryer. A/C in every room, semi-furnished. Must see. Located in Papago. Rent \$1,200/month available in May. Also available for lease. Call Sandy or Joe (671-988-1702) email:una161@hotmail.com



WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

poster
poster
poster
poster

manner

Find today's solution in this section

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BT. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Computer Repair

Only \$25 WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS

Minor Problem

233-5641

Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

GARAGE SALE:

Saturday, April 4 from 7am - ?.

Kagman Rd. 1/2 mile from Mobil Station, second house on right.

Lots of stuff. Household items, toys, clothes, twin size bed, adult bicycle, misc.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BT Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Backup Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

AUTOMOTIVE

Looking for used cars, Nissan, Echo, Corolla & Camry. Year 2000 thru 2005 models. We pay cash. Call 323-7676

WANTED TO LEASE

Looking for house/property. Good location! Lease for 55 yrs. Budget \$45,000 & below. We pay cash. Pls. call 323-7676

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235- NEWS

Broncos agree to trade QB Cutler to Chicago Bears



ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Jay Cutler got his wish Thursday: a ticket out of Denver. And the Chicago Bears have a franchise quarterback for the first time in decades. The Broncos on Thursday traded their disgruntled Pro Bowl passer to the Bears, who've gone through a bevy of quarterbacks without much success ever since Jim McMahon was calling plays in the 1980s.

The Broncos get quarterback Kyle Orton in return, along with two first-round draft picks and a third-rounder.

The Broncos get the Bears' top pick in this year's draft, which is No. 18 overall, and Chicago's first-round draft pick in 2010, along with a third-round selection this year (No. 84 overall). Denver also gave up a fifth-rounder this year.

Calls to Cutler's agent, Bus Cook, went unanswered. His office in Hattiesburg, Miss., was closed because of bad weather and his home phone had a message asking callers to call back later. An e-mail sent by The Associated Press wasn't returned.

Cutler asked for a trade last month after his relationship with Josh McDaniels soured when the new 32-year-old coach talked to other teams about trading him. Cutler and his agent didn't think McDaniels was upfront with them about the trade talks.

Two meetings designed to clear the air only raised Cutler's level of distrust. Still, McDaniels insisted over and over that Cutler was his guy and he said at last week's NFL owners meetings that he would do everything he could to repair their relationship.

When the rocket-armed but thin-skinned passer didn't return the Broncos' phone calls, however, team owner Pat Bowlen said enough was enough. On Tuesday night, he announced he had given his new brain trust of McDaniels and general manager Brian Xanders the go-ahead to seek a trade for the quarterback who made the Pro Bowl in just his second season as a starter.

Now, the Bears have a top quarterback, albeit one with baggage.

"I don't have any concerns," Bears general manager Jerry Angelo said. "(Coach Lovie Smith) and I talked about that. We did, like a lot of people who were interested in Jay, a lot of work going back to not just when he was with Denver (but) but going back to his days at Vanderbilt."

Angelo said area scout Rex Hogan lives in the Nashville area and developed a "great rapport" with Cutler coming out of Vanderbilt in 2006.

"We felt that (Cutler) is a very good person, a good leader," Angelo said. "He had some things that happened in Denver. We recognized those, but we treated them as just speed bumps, part of the growing process. He's highly competitive, he's highly emotional. That just comes with the territory."

Although Cutler is 17-20 as a starter, he's been victimized by dismal defenses in Denver, and he was an impressive 13-1 when the Broncos held opponents to 21 points or fewer.

Last year, Cutler threw for a franchise record 4,526 yards, 25 touchdowns and 18 interceptions. In his 37-game career in Denver, he completed 62.5 percent of his passes for 9,024 yards, 54 TDs and 37 interceptions.

Although he was prone to mistakes,



In this Oct. 5, 2008, file photo, Denver Broncos quarterback Jay Cutler rolls out to pass in a light rain while facing the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in an NFL football game in Denver.

Stallworth expresses condolences in fatal crash

MIAMI (AP)—Cleveland Browns wide receiver Donte Stallworth surrendered in court Thursday to face charges that he was driving drunk when he struck and killed a pedestrian after a night of drinking at a ritzy Miami Beach hotel. He later was released and expressed condolences to the family of victim Mario Reyes.

Stallworth, 28, was led away in handcuffs after a short hearing before Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Dennis Murphy. He was released a few hours later on \$200,000 bail and was planning to return to Cleveland, according to his lawyer.

In a brief statement outside jail, Stallworth said: "I just want to first extend my condolences to the Reyes family. My prayers are with them." Stallworth also said he has "full confidence and faith" in the legal system.

Stallworth attorney Christopher Lyons said he would "vigorously defend this case" and that the defense team has already begun its own probe into the March 14 crash that killed 59-year-old Reyes. Lyons also expressed sympathy for the Reyes family.

"We want to stress there are no winners here. It was a tragic accident," Lyons said.

Stallworth said little at the hearing. He was accompanied by his mother,

Donna, in the courtroom, and was driven away in a silver Lexus after his release from jail.

If convicted of DUI manslaughter, Stallworth faces a maximum of 15 years in prison. The NFL and the Browns are reviewing the charges that also include a separate DUI count, and the Browns issued a statement saying the team is "disappointed" with Stallworth's actions.

The judge set an April 23 arraignment date for Stallworth to enter a plea. Stallworth does not have to be present at that hearing.

A police affidavit said Stallworth's blood-alcohol level after the crash was .126, well above Florida's legal limit of .08. Stallworth had been drinking at a club in the swank Fontainebleau hotel in the hours before he got behind the wheel of his black 2005 Bentley GT and headed out on the MacArthur Causeway that links Miami and Miami Beach, authorities said.

Reyes, a construction crane operator just getting off work, was rushing across the causeway shortly after 7 a.m. to catch a bus home. He was not in the crosswalk when he was struck, and Stallworth told officers he flashed his lights and honked his horn in an attempt to warn Reyes.

Stallworth remained at the crash

scene and told police "I'm the driver of that car" and "I hit the man lying in the road," according to the affidavit. The car's speed was estimated at 50 mph in a 40 mph zone.

Stallworth, who played in college for Tennessee, signed a seven-year, \$35 million contract with the Browns before last season but was injured much of the year. He previously played for New England, Philadelphia and New Orleans.

"We are saddened by the circumstances that have taken place and our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Mario Reyes," the Browns said in their statement. "We have been in communication with the commissioner, who is reviewing the situation under league policies, and we will withhold further comment at this time."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said the league would review the case under its conduct and substance abuse policies.

Stallworth will be prohibited from driving while on bail and not allowed to drink alcohol, according to court documents. He also must observe a midnight to 6 a.m. curfew and submit to random alcohol and drug testing through the NFL's substance abuse program. He is allowed to travel between Cleveland and Miami and must seek permission for any additional travel.

Cutler wasn't happy about Shanahan's firing. And he was upset when his position coach, Jeremy Bates, bolted for Southern Cal because McDaniels will be the one calling plays in Denver now.

When he hired McDaniels, Bowlen proclaimed that Cutler "is the man around here, now."

That didn't last long.

Cutler started to get over Shanahan's dismissal and Bates' departure and he told McDaniels in February he was ea-

ger to learn his new offense. But that all changed on Feb. 28, when Cutler learned McDaniels had talked about trading him to Tampa Bay in a three-way deal that would have brought McDaniels' protege, Matt Cassel, from New England to Denver.

McDaniels had tutored Cassel, who led New England to an 11-5 record after Tom Brady suffered a season-ending injury in the opener last year.

That sent McDaniels' stock soaring

and landed him in Denver as Shanahan's successor.

It seemed like the perfect match: the rocket-armed passer meets the offensive guru.

But McDaniels' dalliance with his former pupil blew up in his face when he didn't clue in Cutler, and now McDaniels begins his era in Denver by chasing off his 25-year-old Pro Bowl quarterback—and he'll have to face Cassel twice a year because the Patriots ended up sending his protege to Kansas City instead.

As for Cutler, he won't have to ditch his West Coast style for the intricate Patriots-style offense.

He might be going to one of the teams he rooted for as a kid growing up in Santa Claus, Ind., but he's also leaving a great pocket of protection in Denver, where left tackle Ryan Clady is considered the best young tackle in the game, and a great bunch of receivers led by fellow Pro Bowler Brandon Marshall and Eddie Royal. Behind young tackles Clady and Ryan Harris, Cutler's offensive line allowed just a dozen sacks.

The Bears, however, signed free agent left tackle Orlando Pace on Thursday.

Denver now has Orton, fellow newcomer Chris Simms and Darrell Hackney at quarterback.

Simms, who signed a two-year, \$6 million free agent deal ostensibly to serve as Cutler's backup, has thrown just two passes since undergoing emergency surgery to remove his spleen after a game in 2006. Hackney's next NFL pass will be his first.

Angelo made it clear in December, after his team went 9-7 and missed the playoffs for the second straight year—that solidifying the quarterback spot was his top priority. Now, he has a Pro Bowler.

"When you just look at the history of the league, I can't recall a situation quite like this," Angelo said. "All we did was react to a situation that we felt affected our football team."

Orton threw for 2,972 yards while completing 272 of 465 passes and throwing more touchdowns (18) than interceptions (12) after beating out Rex Grossman for the starting job. But he wasn't the same after being carted off the field with a sprained ankle against Detroit midway through the season.

Orton went from throwing a club record 205 passes without an interception to throwing eight in four games before a strong finish in the finale.

"I don't want to make anybody think that we didn't have respect for Kyle, because we did," Angelo said. "I feel what really facilitated this trade was Kyle was part of it. I think the draft compensation, given what I was to understand, was very similar to other teams. But they liked Kyle Orton and that was part of it. And I could see why they liked Kyle."

The Bears will get a great but often petulant passer who is going from the long shadow of John Elway in Denver to the Windy City, where he'll be under just as much scrutiny.

Cutler is halfway through the six-year, \$48 million contract he signed as the 11th overall pick out of Vanderbilt in the 2006 draft. His salary cap number for next season is just over \$1 million.

Although he probably won't play in the game, the Bears visit the Broncos for an exhibition on Aug. 30.

Wizards stop Cavaliers 13-game winning run



WASHINGTON (AP)—For the first time all season, the Washington Wizards fielded a starting lineup resembling the one they envisioned when training camp opened last fall.

The result: The team leading the league in losses beat the team leading the league in wins.

In the closest thing they'll have to a playoff game this year, Gilbert Arenas and the Wizards recovered after blowing a 14-point second-half lead and ended the franchise-record 13-game winning streak of LeBron James and Cleveland Cavaliers with a 109-101 victory Thursday night.

Arenas, playing his second game of the season in his latest attempt to return from knee surgery, had with 11 points on 3-for-11 shooting and 10 assists and six rebounds in 33 minutes.

Brendan Haywood, making his first start of the season, had 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Wizards, who also received the usual steady contributions from Caron Butler (25 points) and Antawn Jamison (19) and a surprising 17 points on 6-for-8 shooting from Darius Songaila as they snapped a three-game losing streak.

James scored 22 of his 31 points in the second half and finished with six assists and nine rebounds, but—how's this for a statistical oddity—was responsible for all five of his team's turnovers

until Daniel Gibson traveled in the final minute of the third quarter. James finished with six turnovers, and had a 3-pointer stuffed in his face by Butler with in the final half-minute.

The Wizards led by 68-54 midway through the third quarter and 80-70 going into the fourth, but the Cavaliers opened the final period with a 16-6 run with James on the bench. Wally Szczerbiak's 3-pointer put the teams even at 86-86 with 7:13 remaining.

The Wizards answered with an 11-3 spurt, including a three-point play and a drive to the basket by Songaila and a short jumper from Arenas. Arenas later assisted on back-to-back baskets by Butler and Jamison to get the lead to nine.

James helped trim the lead to four with a 3-pointer and a free throw, but Nick Young's explosive drive to the basket with 1:05 to play put the Wizards ahead 104-98. The sellout crowd roared as Washington—a team that has won only 18 games—wrapped up its second win over Cleveland this season.

Nuggets 114, Jazz 104

At Denver, the Nuggets reached 50 wins faster than any time in their NBA history.

J.R. Smith sank a career-high eight 3-pointers and scored 28 points to lead Denver.

Smith's 3-pointers were shy of the franchise mark set by Mi-



Washington Wizards guard Gilbert Arenas drives around Cleveland Cavaliers guard Mo Williams in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Washington on Thursday, April 2, 2009.

chael Adams in 1991 and tied four years later by Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf.

Carmelo Anthony added 23 points for the Nuggets, who are seeking home-court advantage in a playoff series for the first time since 1988. They won for the 10th time in 11 games and improved to 50-26.

Nuggets forward Kenyon Martin, who just recently returned to full health after dealing with a bad back for a month, went to the locker room in the third quarter with what the team described as a cartilage strain in his left rib cage. X-rays were negative but he didn't return to action.

C.J. Miles led six Jazz in double figures with 19 points.

76ers 105, Bucks 95

At Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala scored 20 points, Lou Williams had 14 of his 21 in the second half, and Philadelphia rallied from a 13-point first-half deficit.

Andre Miller contributed 18 points and 11 assists for the Sixers (39-35), who won their second straight and vaulted past Miami into fifth place in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Ramon Sessions led Milwaukee with his second straight stellar outing, getting 18 points, 10 assists and five rebounds a night after his first career triple-double.

Yankees enjoy first day in new \$1.5 billion home



NEW YORK (AP)—Derek Jeter stepped out of the dugout and gazed up at those massive grandstands, five booming decks of blue-and-white splendor reaching high into a clear Bronx sky.

Welcome home. This is the new Yankee Stadium.

"It's a lot better than I think anyone even expected," Jeter said. "You know, I tried to come here, not ask too many questions about it, just wanted to experience it for the first time. But this is—it's pretty unbelievable."

Jeter and his teammates moved into their fancy new digs Thursday, working out at the \$1.5 billion ballpark before a dazzled crowd of 20,070.

The place is a baseball palace, with modern luxuries everywhere for players and fans alike. But it's also a tribute to history, featuring familiar characteristics from the old Yankee Stadium that opened in 1923.

Monument Park is now directly behind the center-field fence, beneath the Mohegan Sun Sports Bar. The famous frieze rings the upper deck, a replica of the original ballpark roof that was removed during the mid-1970s renovation.

"The stands, obviously, are a lot bigger than the old stadium, but I think they did a tremendous job incorporating qualities from the old stadium into this one," Jeter said. "I

think everyone was amazed at how big the stadium is."

The Yankees have a spacious, oval clubhouse—complete with ThinkPad computers mounted in every wood-paneled locker. Players can use them to watch replays, order tickets for family members or even receive electronic messages from team officials.

Wonder what Babe Ruth and Mickey Mantle would have thought of all that.

"I definitely don't Facebook," new slugger Mark Teixeira said, glancing at his gadget. "I check my e-mail about once a week."

New York players can park in an underground garage and go directly into the ballpark, meaning they don't even have to pass by autograph-seeking fans before or after games.

They have a huge training room, weight room, swimming pool, SwimEx spa and cozy lounge, giving them plenty of places to "hide" from reporters, as Jeter pointed out.

"I think everyone is going to be a little bit spoiled," he said. "If you were sitting down and drawing out a stadium as a player, I don't think there's anything else you could add."

Still, it might take awhile for the Yankees to feel completely at home here after moving from their old digs across 161st Street.

"It definitely feels awkward. It definitely feels weird," pitcher Andy Pettitte said. "Everything is different."

Standing on the field, the ballpark looks similar to the remodeled Yankee Stadium. Plush green grass, a warning track of reddish clay, the padded blue fence. The outfield dimensions are the same, too.

But then, you look up at the 52,325 seats (down from more than 57,000 in the previous stadium) and the enormous video board in center field, 59 feet high and 101 feet wide, flanked by two smaller screens.

"Fabulous," manager Joe Girardi said. "Better than my initial impressions."

Fans gawked as they soaked in the warm sun and festive atmosphere, many arriving with cameras and kids they pulled out of school. Season-ticket holders received ducats to the workout, and the Yankees gave thousands of tickets to Bronx community groups.

Former Yankees star Bernie Williams played guitar at opening ceremonies for the Hard Rock Cafe in right field. As the team practiced for nearly two hours, rock 'n' roll greats from the Ramones to Jimi Hendrix blared over the sound system.

Indeed, this place was built to host a big party every night—albeit an expensive one.

"This is spectacular. It is beautiful. Beyond my expectations," said Paola Murphy of Fairfield, Conn., who stood in the front row of first-base stands with her husband and two boys.

"It's really majestic."

Patrick Butler, a Boston fan wearing a Red Sox jersey and cap believe it or not, went even further.

"I've been to a lot of major league baseball stadiums around the country and by far this is the best," said Butler, who drove nearly three hours from Providence, R.I., with his 18-year-old son, Gregory, a Yankees fan.

The first games in the new ballpark will be exhibitions against the Chicago Cubs on Friday night and Saturday. New York's regular-season home opener is April 16 against Cleveland.

Of course, all these amenities cost money. The most expensive individual-game seats go for \$2,625 and the cheapest ticket in the lower deck between the bases is \$350.

That's pretty stiff, especially in this economy.

"I don't see this place as ostentatious or flashy. I guess I see it as classy," general partner Hal Steinbrenner said. "I think we did a great job and I think everybody in our organization is very proud of it."

There is far less room between home plate and the backstop in the new ballpark, but there appears to be a little more foul territory near the dugouts and down the lines.

Teixeira said the hitting background was fine during batting practice and he liked the way the ball was carrying.

High winds suspend play in Houston

HUMBLE, Texas (AP)—The first round of the Shell Houston Open was suspended because of high wind Thursday with only half the 144-player field on the course. The round will resume on Friday morning.

A morning thunderstorm postponed the start of the tournament by 2 1/2 hours. Play was then stopped at 12:50 p.m. because of wind that was strong enough to move balls on the slippery greens before players could mark them. The round was suspended for the day at 3 p.m. after wind gusts reached 50 mph.

"It was kind of a situation where we couldn't conduct the competition properly this afternoon," PGA Tour tournament director Mark Russell said.

Lee Westwood shot a 4-under 32 on the front nine to take a two-shot lead before the horns sounded across the course. Westwood made 18-foot birdie putts on the first two holes, then added a 45-footer on the par-3 ninth.

He was ready to stroke a 15-foot birdie putt on the 10th hole when a tournament official warned him that play was about to be stopped.

"I said, 'Oh, so I can putt it now while it's unplayable, or come back in the morning, when there's no wind on

the greens,'" Westwood said. "Let me think about that."

The National Weather Service measured sustained wind of 25 mph with gusts up to 40 mph on Thursday morning. The service issued a wind advisory in the area to remain in effect until 7 p.m.

The wind delay was the first on the PGA Tour since the final round of the 2007 Verizon Heritage Classic at Hilton Head was suspended until Monday.

"You don't often get weather delays without a cloud in the sky, that's for sure," Westwood said.

The Houston event drew a star-studded field, with 15 of the top-20 players in the world rankings here to fine-tune their games before next week's Masters. Organizers have tried to set up the Tournament Course at Redstone with conditions simulating Augusta—fast greens and light rough.

Westwood said the speed of the greens contributed to the stoppage.

"That's been the problem, really, the pace of the greens," he said. "Once the wind started blowing as strongly as it did, there was no way the ball could stand still."

Westwood held a two-shot lead over a pack of eight players at 2-under.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	57	19	.750	—
Philadelphia	39	35	.527	17
New Jersey	31	44	.413	25
Toronto	29	45	.392	27
New York	29	46	.387	27 1/2
Central Division				
y-Cleveland	61	14	.813	—
Detroit	36	39	.480	25
Chicago	36	40	.474	25 1/2
Indiana	32	43	.427	29
Milwaukee	32	45	.416	30
Southeast Division				
y-Orlando	55	19	.743	—
x-Atlanta	43	32	.573	12 1/2
Miami	39	36	.520	16 1/2
Charlotte	31	41	.453	21 12
Washington	18	59	.234	38 1/2
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
x-San Antonio	48	26	.649	—
x-Houston	48	27	.640	0 1/2
New Orleans	47	27	.635	1
Dallas	45	30	.600	3 1/2
Memphis	20	54	.270	28
Northwest Division				
x-Denver	49	26	.653	—
Portland	47	27	.635	1 1/2
Utah	46	28	.622	2 1/2
Oklahoma City	21	53	.284	27 1/2
Minnesota	21	54	.280	28
Pacific Division				
z-LA Lakers	59	16	.787	—
Phoenix	41	34	.547	18
Golden State	26	49	.347	33
LA Clippers	18	57	.240	41
Sacramento	16	58	.216	42 1/2
Yesterday's Games				
Washington 109, Cleveland 101				
Denver 114, Utah 104				
Philadelphia 105, Milwaukee 95				
x-Clinched Playoff Spot				
y-Division Champ				
z-Clinched Home Court				

SHELL HOUSTON OPEN

(Partial scores)

FIRST ROUND	
Lee Westwood	32
J.B. Holmes	30
Justin Leonard	30
Marc Turnesa	26
Bob Estes	23
John Huston	18
Charlie Wi	18
Scott McCarron	19
Bart Bryant	15
Greg Owen	43
Fred Couples	27
Tim Petrovic	19
J.J. Henry	20
Derek Fathauer	11
Marc Leishman	11
James Nitties	11
Brandt Jobe	44
Kevin Na	44
Peter Lonard	40
Harrison Frazar	36
Bill Haas	36
Paul Goydos	36
Greg Norman	32
Aaron Baddeley	28
Brian Gay	28
Padraig Harrington	28
Charley Hoffman	28
Daniel Chopra	25
Rich Beem	25
Nick O'Hern	20
Kent Jones	20
Ryan Moore	21
Lucas Glover	21
Jeff Maggert	21
Casey Wittenberg	12
Jonathan Kaye	41
Heath Slocum	41
Alex Cejka	37
Joe Ogilvie	33
Charles Howell III	33
David Toms	29
K.J. Choi	29
Chad Campbell	26
Johnson Wagner	26
Joe Durant	21
Glen Day	21
Spencer Levin	18
Gary Woodland	18
David Mathis	13
Chris Stroud	13
Fredrik Jacobson	46
Luke Donald	42
Eric Axley	38
Davis Love III	30
Andres Romero	30
Matt Bettencourt	22
Jeev Milkha Singh	19
Kevin Stadler	19
Jimmy Walker	19
Peter Tomasulo	14
Ricky Barnes	14
Aron Price	14
Jay Williamson	47
Troy Matteson	43
Chris Riley	43
Angel Cabrera	39
Phil Mickelson	35
Michael Bradley	31
John Mallinger	40
Chez Reavie	41
Steve Stricker	33
Alvaro Quiros	57

By The Associated Press

Huwa, Voyagers keep lead in 8-ball tilt

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



D’Pirates H u w a e d g e d B w i - B w i ’ s Shark Attack, 4-3, last Tuesday night at home to keep the lead in the Obyan Division of the Saipan Billiards Association’s Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

Jess Pangelinan pocketed the 8-ball on his break to cap a 2-0

win against Bernard Kileleman in the first singles match-up.

Huwa took four of the five singles matches to improve the team’s record to 28 wins and 14 losses.

Shark Attack prevailed in the two doubles pairings to create a tie for second place with the Monte Carlo Perfect Spotters with similar 23-19 cards.

The Perfect Spotters also posted a close road game victory, 4-3, over host USSP Watever by winning three of the five singles and the last match in the

two doubles’ matches.

Bradley Demapan nailed the night’s other eight-on-the-break shot in his 2-0 triumph against Bill Kaipat.

Watever is currently in third place with 21 victories and 21 defeats.

BwiBwi’s Da Snipers ambushed USSP Fotten Palau, 5-2, and climbed to sixth place with 20-22.

Still Fotten Palau has a better record in fifth place with 21-21.

D’Pirates 8-Ballers also won on the road against host VFW

Warriors, 5-2, to improve its record to 19-23 in seventh place.

The 8-Ballers won all their singles matches and dropped their two doubles assignments.

The Warriors fell to a 13-29 record in the bottom of the standings.

In the Agingan Division, the Voyagers, who were on a bye, kept their lead with a 25-10 card, counting their win over Wild Wild West in their last game on Nov. 24.

Running second are the Docomo Hustlers (22-13).

The Hustlers won their last doubles match-up on the way to a 4-3 victory over the visiting Utopia Mix Acers.

Billy Bones Home Boys won over 8 Ball Knights, 5-2, to stay in third spot with 20-15 mark, while sister team Billy Bones Bad Boys lost to Wild Wild West, 4-3.

Mix Acers is running fourth with a 17-18 card, Wild Wild West is fifth (15-20), followed by Snicker 8 Ball Knights (15-20) and Bad Boys (12-30).

KFC/TACO

From Page 28

Vero in transition, but the former opted to fire from downtown instead of milking the clock. Dollar Days got the ball back and went for a fastbreak, but Capalad stole the long pass, before he lost his footing and was called

for a traveling violation.

Dollar Days regained the lea-ther and sued for time in the last 13 seconds in the game. When the game resumed, Jay Diyco went up for a triple from the left corner and missed. Demapan grabbed the offensive rebound and gave the ball to Tamayo, who aimed for a triple, but was stripped off possession by Cadagat.

The ensuing plays saw Jun Pantaleon fouling Tumaquip, who missed his two free throws, and Bernardo struggling to get the rebound as time expired.

In the battle for third place, Inchcape escaped with a 91-89 win over Athlete’s Foot.

First Game

Inchcape 91 – Mendiola 25,

Peredo 21, Mendoza 17, De Dios 16, Tobias 7, Olivos 2, Garcia 2, Buenabajo 1.

Athlete’s Foot 89 – N. Mateo 27, Arreza 19, Esdreton 18, Joyner 17, Ong 8.

Scoring by quarters: 29-23, 55-43, 70-74, 91-89.

Second Game

KFC/Taco Bell 104 – Cada-



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Eight Japanese kids show basic skills of Kyokushin-kan among students of a local karate-do school in Garapan last Wednesday night.

PATRIOTS

From Page 28

ings, rallying from a 2-6 deficit with four runs on four hits and two walks in the bottom of the third that tied the count at 6-6.

Five more hits, three walks, and a hit by pitch produced two runs in the fourth and two more in the fifth and the Patriots were

in front 10-6.

OI’Aces were heading for a repeat of their victory in the two teams’ first meeting by coming in with three consecutive runs out of four hits and two walks in the top of the seventh.

Thyse Tutiya drove John Santy home, Frankie Camacho also scored on a Shane DeLeon Guerrero triple and the latter made the game’s last run on a single

by Lamark Iguel.

That spirited comeback chopped the Patriots’ lead to just a single run with two outs in the inning.

Reliever Jared Sablan went for the third out on an easy catch for a fly out against OI’Aces’ last batter Jacob Flores.

Starting pitcher Christian Mizer struck out five batters and gave up seven hits and two walks.

Iguel allowed six hits, three walks, and issued eight strikeouts before reliever Jake Santos came to the mound in the fifth inning.

Lion Heart 12, Fielders 6

Also on Saturday, Kagman Lion Heart reasserted its mastery over the Fielders, 12-6.

Lion Heart also prevailed over

the Fielders in their first meeting last Feb. 28 with a similar easy 17-6 win.

Lion Heart 10, Red Sox 0

The Lion Heart followed their win with a 10-0 mercy rule-shortened victory over the Red Sox on Sunday and the Lion Heart are now 4-3 while the Red Sox are 3-5.

FIESTA

From Page 28

identical 2-3 records. To break the tie, the technical committee added points accumulated by each team in three games with the top two squads earning the last two semis slots.

Fiesta scored 101 points against PIC, 100 against Saipan World Resort, and 86 against Tinian for a total of 287 points. PIC tallied 263 points after getting 82 points against Fiesta/Grand, 91 against Tinian, and 90

against Saipan World Resort.

Saipan World Resort finished only third after accumulating 260 points (72, 103, and 85), while Tinian ended in last place with a total of 251 points (68, 105, and 78).

PIC and Fiesta/Grand will join Hyatt Regency Saipan and Aqua Resort Club in the semifinal round, which will be played this Monday.

Hyatt finished the regular season on top of the field with a 4-1 record. Hyatt absorbed its lone loss at the hands of Aqua Resort on Feb. 23, 98-100.

Aqua Resort is seeded second in the playoffs with its 3-2 record. Aqua’s losses were against Tinian, 94-95, and PIC, 98-108.

PIC dropped its first three games in the league, but won its last two to advance to the next round. The San Antonio-based PIC bowed to Hyatt, 94-107, Tinian, 91-105, and Fiesta/Grand, 92-101.

Fiesta/Grand won two of its last three matches to notch a semis seat. Fiesta/Grand lost its debut against Aqua Resort Club, 73-85, and also bowed to Hyatt, 90-93. Fiesta/Grand ended its two-game losing skid with a

101-92 triumph over PIC, but faltered, anew in their fourth match against Saipan World Resort, 100-103, before closing out the regular season with an eight-point win over Tinian.

In Monday’s semifinal round, the pairing will be Hyatt versus PIC and Aqua against Fiesta/Grand. Winners of the two semis matches will battle for the championship on April 13.

First Game

PIC 90 – Sanciangco 28, Barbo 25, Abuy 16, Novo 10, Babauta 8, Tolentino 3.

Saipan World Resort 85 – Bernardo 20, Abuel 19, Basila 16, Vinas 7, Schinieder 5, Navarro 4, Ramos 2, Tabamo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-13, 45-30, 71-64, 90-85.

Second Game

Fiesta/Grand 86 – Cadagat 33, Esdreton 30, Opone 8, Usi 8, Palero 4, Macoto 2, Carino 1.

Tinian 78 – Fernandez 27, Ri. Reyes 17, Sabordo 13, Flores 9, Cajayon 5, Manalo 2, Ramirez 2, RJ Reyes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-19, 37-42, 59-58, 86-78.



Broncos agree to trade QB Cutler to Chicago Bears

Jay Cutler got his wish Thursday: a ticket out of Denver. And the Chicago Bears have a franchise quarterback for the first time in decades. **25**

Saipan Tribune Sports

Wizards stop Cavaliers 13-game winning run

For the first time all season, the Washington Wizards fielded a starting lineup resembling the one they envisioned when training camp opened last fall. **26**



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Christian Mizer in action in a file photo from one of the Patriots' wins in the Junior Division of the Saipan Little League.

Patriots avenge loss to Ol'Aces, 10-9

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Fans witnessed one of the closest games this season in the Junior Division of the Saipan Little League as the Patriots beat Ol'Aces, 10-9, last Saturday.

It was the Patriots' fourth straight win, as the team regained the division lead with eight wins against a single loss.

The win also avenged the Patriots' 3-7 defeat to Ol'Aces last March 7, their lone loss in nine matches.

The Patriots struggled in the early go-

See PATRIOTS on Page 27

Fiesta/Grand, PIC make semifinals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Pacific Islands Club and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan/Saipan Grand Hotel

booked the two remaining semifinal tickets in the 2009 Budweiser Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Invitational Basketball League after winning the last pair of games in the regular season Monday night at the Tinian Municipal Gymnasium.

PIC slipped past Saipan World Resort, 90-85, in the first match, while Fiesta/Grand outclassed host Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, 86-78, in the second game.

At the end of the regular season, these four teams finished with

See FIESTA on Page 27

KFC/Taco Bell stays alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

KFC/Taco Bell lives for another day following a 104-101 victory over Dollar Days in Game 2 of their title series in the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League Thursday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

KFC/Taco Bell put up a stingy defense against Wowie Abuel, while Melvin Capalad, Larry Palero, and Jomary Tumaquip made clutch baskets to force a deciding Game 3, which will be played tonight.

Dollar Days won Game 1 in overtime, 119-111, behind Abuel's 34 points.

In Game 2, Abuel seemed headed for another explosive night, as his guns were blazing early, nailing two triples and scoring 11 points in the first half.

But Abuel was almost a no-show in the last three quarters, as Tumaquip, Quincy Johnson, and J.R. Concepcion alternately hounded him. Abuel went without a triple in the last three quarters, tallying only seven points in the second and third periods, and was scoreless in the fourth.

Besides neutralizing Abuel, KFC/Taco Bell also shuffled its players well and started strong to win Game 2.

In Game 1, KFC/Taco Bell fell behind by 15 in the first period, 32-17, but in Game 2, it kept pace with Dollar Days, leading by a hair after 10 minutes of play, 29-28. KFC/Taco Bell hung in there and was behind by only three at halftime, 48-51.

KFC/Taco Bell took the lead at the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

KFC/Taco Bell's Sonny Lerio, right, goes for an acrobatic shot against Dollar Days' Kae Bernardo during Game 2 of their title series in the Navy Hill caging Thursday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

end of the third quarter, 77-71, with Bonbon Cadagat firing four triples in that canto.

Concepcion, who was off in Game 1, started for KFC/Taco Bell in the playoff period and scored successive baskets, giving his team its biggest lead, 82-75, with still eight minutes left in the game.

With Abuel hammered by KFC/Taco Bell defenders, Dollar Days found a go-to-guy in Bon Tamayo, who made two triples and two layups in a span of three minutes. Ivan De Vero, Kae Bernardo, and Bart Demapan joined the scoring spree and the game was tied for the last time at 97-all, going into the last two minutes of the match.

De Vero's layup gave Dollar Days its last taste of the lead, 99-97, before Tumaquip canned a triple from the top of the key to grab the driver's seat, 100-99.

Tamayo missed his fourth attempt from downtown, while Palero, who muffed several undergoal stabs in the first three quarters, hit a jumper near the foul line, increasing KFC/Taco Bell's lead to three 102-99, with a minute left on the clock.

De Vero made another layup on the other end and Dollar Days had a chance to get the lead back after Sonny Lerio missed a layup. But Tamayo lost the ball to the right sideline, as he was headed for a fastbreak.

KFC/Taco Bell, which had Jose Tumaquip coaching on the sideline, called a timeout in the last 43 seconds of the game and when the play resumed, Capalad drilled a banked 10-footer to increase the lead, 104-101.

Cadagat then stole the ball from De

See KFC/TACO on Page 27

Japanese kids showcase karate-do skills



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Visiting kids from Japan (in blue T-shirts) join karate-do students of Danny Banez, right, in a photo session shortly after their arrival on Saipan last Wednesday night.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

A group of youngsters from Japan is visiting Saipan to conduct several karate exhibitions as well as promote the sport's kyokushin-kan style to local martial arts enthusiasts.

Accompanied by their instructor Yuji Yamasaki and some of their parents, the martial arts students aged 6 to 9 years old, performed at the Thursday Market at Paseo De Marianas in Garapan.

Prior to that, the kids visited a karate-do gym in Garapan just an hour after their arrival from Japan Wednesday night.

They watched the local students on their regular training regimen at the gym, which is operated by former Philippine national team member Danny Banez since 1990.

Japanese showed some of the basic techniques and styles that make martial arts a very popular sport back in their home country.

Yamasaki said their club, Kyokushin-

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